

# Austin College



MAGAZINE | 2020 ISSUE

**Global Life:  
'Roos Around  
the World**

**Pledged to the  
Public Good**

**Good  
To Go**

**Public Health Proves  
Popular Major**



Austin College Indian Cultural Association members present Holi (Festival of Colors) every spring on campus, sharing the celebration with all interested students. Observed since ancient times, the Indian national holiday marks the start of spring, as well as the conquest of good over evil and the coming together of people of all social hierarchies. Colored powders and waters are thrown in jubilation.

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PHOTO BY ELECTRA COFFMAN '22



**ON THE BACK COVER:**

The Aussies Dance Team was one of several student groups performing at the fall 2019 Diwali presentation on campus. Captain **Amy Sierra '21** created the group's dance specifically for the cultural event. Caught in this moment, **Sylvia Sit '22** provides the face for the five members performing. Other arms belong to Amy Sierra, **Allie Straeck '22**, **Bella MacMiller '21**, and **Alex Fry '21**.



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PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMBERT



**"We often use the term 'RooNation, but maybe for this edition of the magazine it should be 'RooWorld.'"**

Dear Friends,

As a new decade begins, we at Austin College are looking forward even as we embrace our heritage. The 2019-2020 academic year marks the implementation of the Compass Curriculum. Rooted in the powerful, time-tested tradition of the liberal arts, the Compass Curriculum will enable our students to deeply explore ideas from diverse perspectives, preparing them with the knowledge and skills to navigate and participate in the global society of the 21st Century. The Compass Curriculum also requires students to participate in applied learning experiences, such as research, internships, or programs like SEPA (Social Entrepreneurship for the Alleviation of Poverty) and Model UN.

One of those learning applications is travel, as highlighted throughout this issue of *Austin College Magazine*. Travel experiences provide connections beyond the textbook. History is alive when crouching in a bunker or walking a battlefield. Understanding of environmental issues becomes broader and more immediate hiking through rain forests or across tundra. Any study of language and culture is deepened through firsthand experience and immersion.

We often use the term 'RooNation, but maybe for this edition of the magazine it should be 'RooWorld. The list of countries around the globe where Austin College students and alumni go is literally from Argentina to Zambia. This past summer alone, we had students studying and working in Greenland, Paraguay, Ecuador, Honduras, Argentina, and Austria, to name a few. They served in cities, in remote rural areas, and everywhere in between. They applied their skills firsthand in clinics, in schools, and in retirement homes, but perhaps more importantly, they actually experienced another culture and forged international bonds of friendship and understanding.

Countless alumni have told me the difference a travel experience made to them, and these experiences are in our DNA. It's who we are. Over the last 20 years, nearly two thirds of our graduates have traveled through JanTerm, Global Outreach Fellowships, and study abroad. Others recognize the value of travel and applied learning at Austin College as well. Last fall, the College received a Global Citizen Award that honors leaders from the United States and abroad for their contributions to global citizenship, diversity, inclusion, and cross-cultural understanding. Our students are recognized individually, too. Austin College has the most Fulbright recipients, per capita, of any college in Texas.

This past semester, I had the opportunity to attend several student presentations about their international summer research experiences. I was deeply impressed with their work but maybe even more impressed by the fact that they were *there* to do their work. With no prior connections, they were taking off to places like Thailand, Singapore, or Paraguay. It served as a powerful reminder that Austin College students are as they've always been: curious, smart, and, yes, fearless!

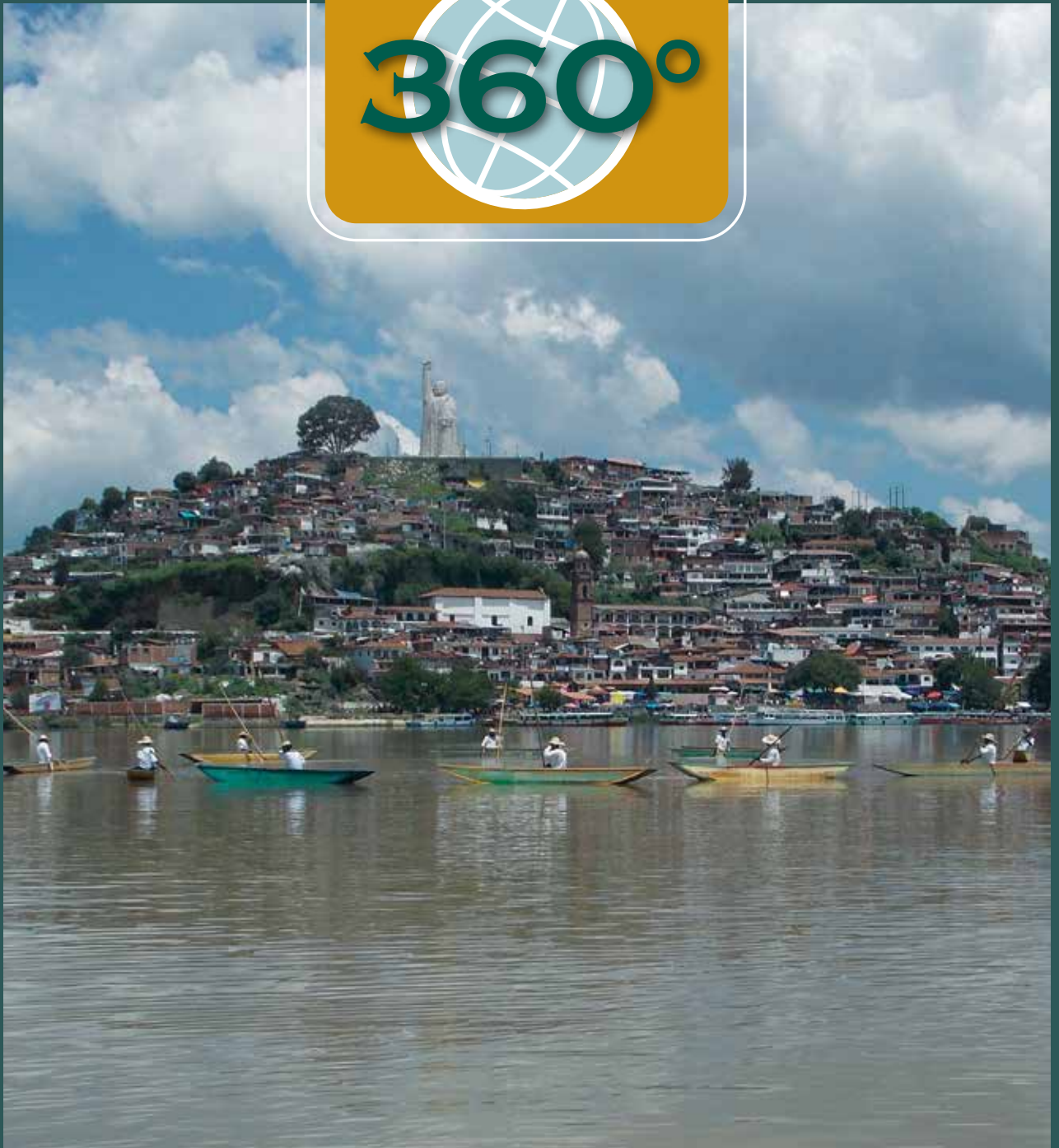
While you turn the pages of this issue, know that as this new decade begins, some things never change. At Austin College, we ARE transforming students so they can transform the world.

Enjoy the magazine. Thank you for your support of 'RooWorld.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven P. O'Day". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'S' and 'D'.

**STEVEN P. O'DAY, J.D.**  
President,  
Austin College



# GLOBAL LIFE: 'ROOTS AROUND THE WORLD





# 360°

The word “global” is so ... *global* in 2020. Almost the entire planet is accessible in ways unimaginable before the advent of the World Wide Web.

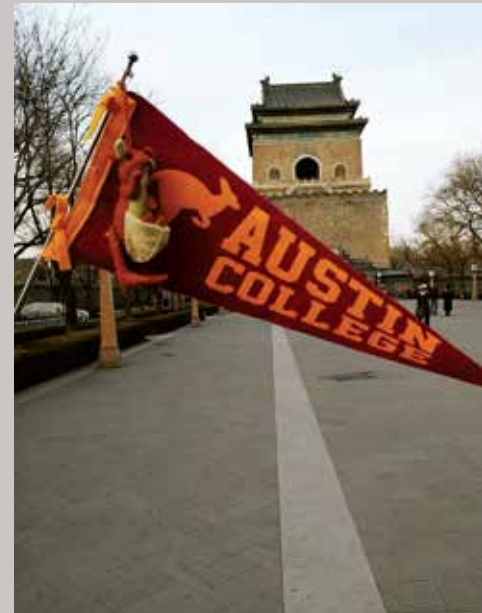
For the Austin College community, however, global is more than high-tech convenience that effortlessly connects across the miles. The term is a touchstone for deeper commitment to cultural awareness through engagement, experiences, and education to prepare for serving a connected world.

From international travel to multicultural campus events, 'RooNation can be found exploring new places and making new connections. On these pages, we embark on a visual journey around the world in 2019 as revealed by photographers with an eye for the unexpected, the beautiful, the raw truth of a moment in time.

## GUATEMALA

**TOP: THE PHOTO THAT INSPIRED THE MAGAZINE COVER; TAKEN BY PROFESSOR OF SPANISH DR. PATRICK DUFFEY, PICTURED BELOW ON THE 2019 JANTERM TO GUATEMALA.**





## CHINA

DR. MINDY LANDECK,  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
OF EAST ASIAN  
STUDIES: "FLAVORS OF  
EAST ASIA" JANTERM











TOP AND LEFT: PRIYA CHARY '19  
IN GREECE DURING JANTERM  
2019; ABOVE AND RIGHT:  
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY  
DR. HUNT TOOLEY IN TUNISIA



## THE ANCIENT WORLD



## AT THE TABLE

ABOVE: DR. JULIE HEMPEL,  
MEXICO;  
LEFT: JULIA BIALECKA '20,  
JAPAN;  
RIGHT: MICHAELA DAVIS '20,  
GO! FELLOW IN GUATEMALA





THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE  
FROM RIGHT:  
DR. JULIE HEMPEL,  
MEXICO;  
DR. SYED KAMAL,  
BANGLADESH;  
DR. KARLA MCCAIN,  
PROFESSOR OF  
CHEMISTRY/  
ASSOCIATE DEAN  
OF INSTITUTIONAL  
EFFECTIVENESS,  
NEW MEXICO

## SACRED SPACES





## CUBA

THIS PAGE: IMAGES OF CUBAN STREET LIFE  
DURING A SEMESTER ABROAD,  
MEGAN SLAUGHTER '20;  
NEXT PAGE: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF  
SPANISH DR. ELENA OLIVÉ LED A JANTERM









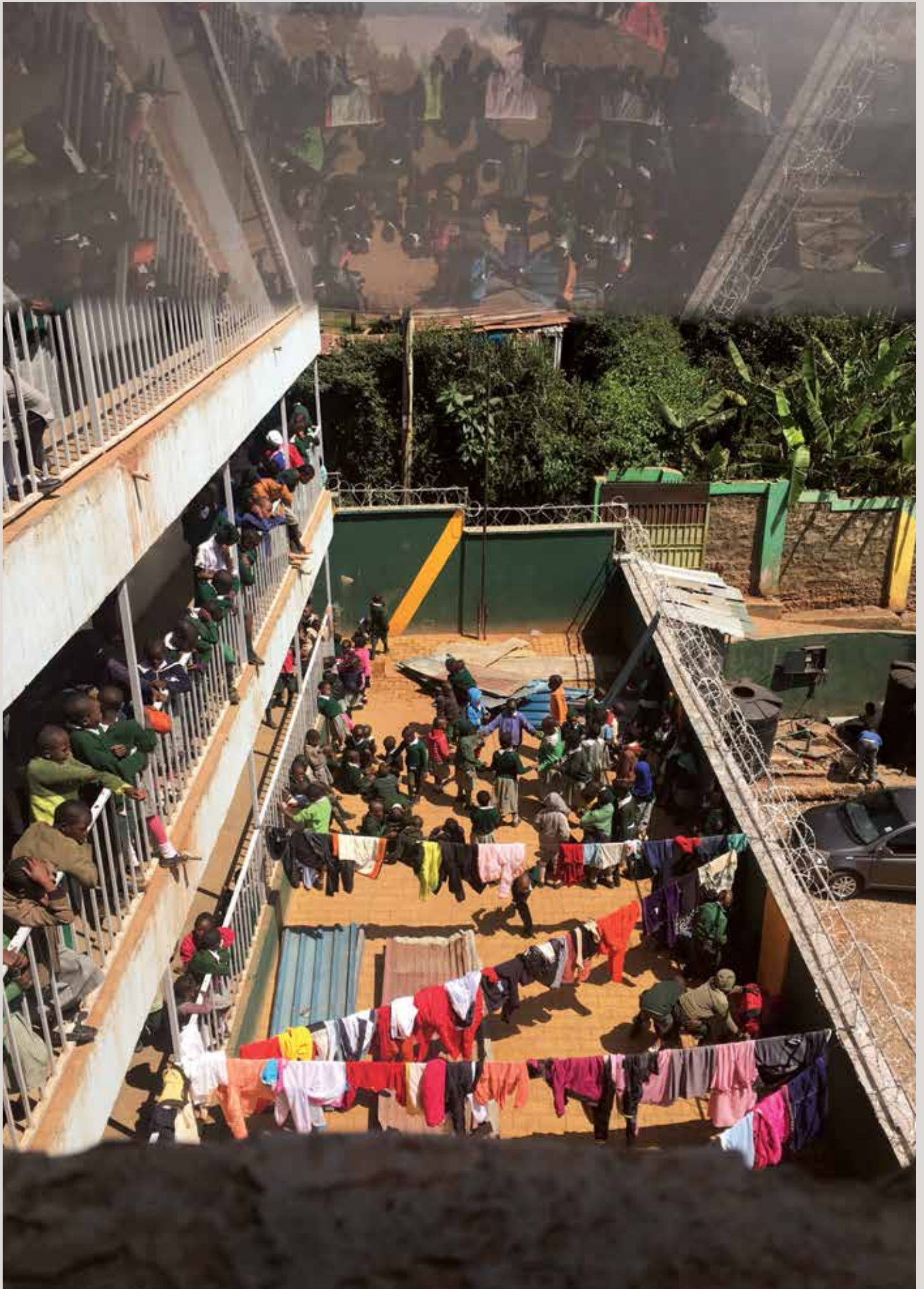
## BANGLADESH

ALL PHOTOS:  
DR. SYED KAMAL,  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
OF BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION,  
DURING SUMMER 2019  
TRAVEL













LEFT: TAJAL PATEL '20, GO! FELLOW IN KENYA;  
 THIS PAGE, TOP ROW:  
 HOLLY (WEINGENG) HE '20, GO! FELLOW IN NEPAL;  
 FOREST GARDNER '20, GO! FELLOW IN PERU;  
 ABOVE: MATT LI '21, HONG KONG;  
 RIGHT: SHELBY BAGBY '20, GO! FELLOW IN PERU

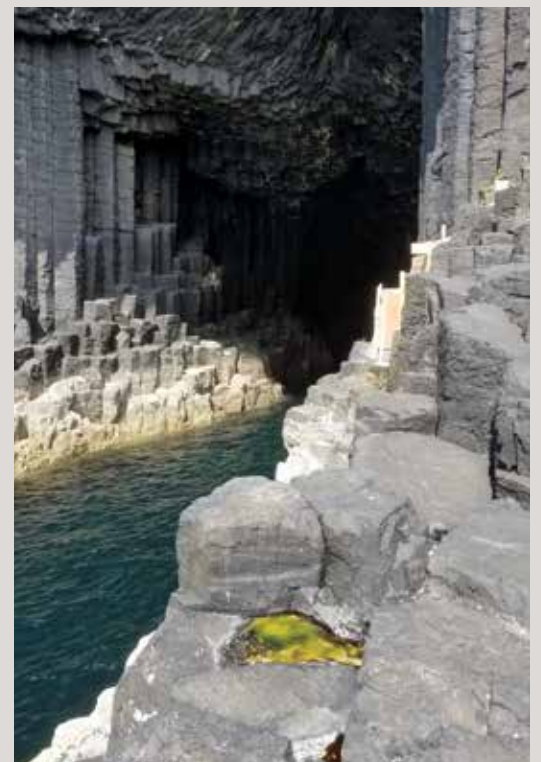


**THE HUMAN CONNECTION**



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE  
FROM RIGHT:  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF  
ENGLISH DR. TOM BLAKE,  
ICELAND; TAJAL PATEL  
'20, KENYA; PROFESSOR  
OF ECONOMICS DR. KEVIN  
SIMMONS, FINGAL'S  
CAVE, SCOTLAND; LIHLU  
FUENTES '21, FRANCE;  
MIGUEL ROJAS '19,  
GUATEMALA

## AT WATER'S EDGE







## ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE


THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE  
FROM TOP:  
JULIA BIALECKA '20,  
JAPAN; MIGUEL ROJAS  
'19, GUATEMALA; SPENCER  
DIRK '20, GO! FELLOW IN  
TANZANIA; KATIE SEIBERT  
'20, GO! FELLOW IN PERU





# GOOD TO GO





The Austin College experience has been successfully launching graduates into careers and postgraduate and professional studies for decades.

For most students in recent years, that experience has included an internship or research project, international study or creative project, servant leadership or other activities that put their classroom education into action. In fact, a faculty committee discovered that nearly 90% of recent graduates had one or more such experience—but that wasn't enough. What about the remaining students?

The newly designed and approved Compass Curriculum, effective Fall Term 2019, answers that question and ensures that every student will enjoy practical experience and the deeper learning that accompanies it.



“Applied learning experiences have value far beyond building the kind of social skills, work ethic, and practical expertise that are important for life in the world,” said **Dr. Beth Gill**, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. “In keeping with the intellectual goals commonly associated with an education of breadth and depth, these experiences also improve the quality of learning itself by giving students a deeper understanding of the subject and enhancing their capacity for critical thinking, while developing the skills for lifelong learning.”

Extreme encounters with learning outside the classroom generally have one of three outcomes: 1) confirm a career path for a student; 2) expose that an area of interest or direction is not as appealing as originally thought; or 3) reveal a student's passion for something completely new—producing an exciting course correction.

“A significant development in the Compass Curriculum is that all students will participate in an applied learning experience as part of their college

journey,” said **Dr. Karla McCain**, The Rupert B. Lowe Chair in Chemistry and Associate Dean of Institutional Effectiveness. “Applied learning is not only for the extroverted go-getter or the one who already has a life plan. Every student will experience at least one of these opportunities.”

Many applied learning programs and activities don't require extensive applications, exclusive selection processes, or additional costs for students. Faculty also are intentionally seeking ways to build applied learning into more courses, and the Applied Learning Committee will examine new and existing campus activities that might meet the applied learning requirement.

Now, all students will dig deeper at least once—but possibly many times—into learning experiences that build skills, confidence, and résumés.

The following profiles illustrate the positive effects and outcomes of applied learning. For these young alumni and so many others, an Austin College education is like the careful preparation before a countdown to launch. 3 ... 2 ... 1. Good to go.

# Right on Course

PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMBERT



Alisa White imagined being a doctor since childhood. She remains right on course to fulfill her dreams of practicing in women's healthcare and obstetrics, helping bring new lives into the world.

**ALISA WHITE '20** has curated the kind of college experiences that build stamina, make connections, and lead to a career. After graduating in 2020 with a major in Biochemistry and minors in Spanish and Leadership Studies, she will enter Texas Tech Medical School, admitted through the Early Acceptance Program as a junior. She's had that goal in mind from day one and worked toward it in expected and unexpected ways.

"In my time at Austin College, I have had many applied learning opportunities, including off-campus research, a Global Outreach Fellowship in Thailand, a medical shadowing JanTerm, CityLab JanTerm classes, and a SEPA grant writing internship serving MasterKey Ministries," she said.

Through these opportunities, Alisa says she has learned to work effectively on team-based projects, feel a part of the global community, and appreciate the value of servant leadership.

During her 2019 JanTerm course, "CityLab: Food as Medicine," Alisa visited UT Southwestern School of Medicine and Moncrief Cancer Institute of Fort Worth where she met Dr. Matthew Carlson, gynecological cancer specialist. Based on their connection during the one-month course, Carlson invited Alisa to shadow him during summer 2019. She gained experience with patient consultation, created patient handouts about healthy lifestyle practices, and learned more about the role of culinary medicine in the treatment of cancer. Alisa



is interested in women's health and gynecological and obstetric medicine.

"My work with the JanTerm culinary medicine course and Dr. Carlson in combination with my grant writing work for MasterKey Ministries food pantry further strengthened my interest in medicine and gave me firsthand

experiences in holistic health—making me a more qualified applicant for the Texas Tech Early Acceptance Program," she said. "Each one of my Austin College experiences has shaped me and empowered me to use hard work, integrity, service to others, and passion to make the world a better place."



COURTESY PHOTOS



Traveling the world as a volunteer or leading service on campus as a member of the College's Service Station Board, Alisa believes a positive attitude will inspire others to serve. During her internship as a grant writer, her supervisor said they were so impressed with her they already referred to her as Dr. White. During her summer shadowing experience, she was able to consult with patients about their diets, just like medical students in culinary medicine. Alisa is gathering all her experiences to put to use when she becomes a medical professional—right on course.



# This is Not a Drill



COURTESY PHOTO

Cesar Ruiz combines his passions for data and public policy in his graduate work and his career, guided by the foundation and skills he honed at Austin College.

In Washington D.C., **CESAR RUIZ '18** works on predictive modeling and supply chain research of the pharmaceutical industry. As a member of the economics staff of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, he studies the numbers; as a graduate of Austin College, he appreciates the people those numbers represent.

While at Austin College, Cesar majored in International Relations and Economics and then continued at Carnegie Mellon University to study Public Policy with an emphasis on Data Analytics. "It's definitely not a very common combination, but it lets me intersect my interest in data science with the ability to work on issues of public interest," he said.

Cesar learned many skills while participating as a student and head delegate for Model United Nations at Austin College. "Model United Nations gave me great experience with professional writing and project management," he said. "Given the relevance of memo and report writing in the world of public policy, coming into interviews with demonstrable experience was extremely helpful."

However, it was in **Dr. Kevin Simmons'** JanTerm class, "The Economics of Poverty" that Cesar began to understand the people behind the economic issues—people in need of solutions. During the course, students spent class time learning about poverty; then they "lived" it.





Becoming their own case studies, students developed mock household budgets and then were dealt various life situations, such as loss of job, divorce, or devastating illness to deal with. In other words, life happened.

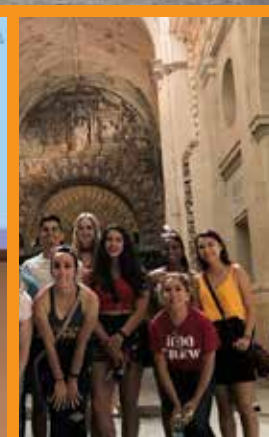
For Cesar, the class and the exercise helped shape his plans for the future. “Having to set up such a detailed budget and research realistic ways to stretch that when faced with everyday issues forced us all to look at the situation from

a new perspective, and to realize that lives we may take for granted shield us from so much unpredictability,” he said.

“At the end of the JanTerm, Dr. Simmons talked about the importance of not just rationalizing away people’s problems but trying to live in their shoes before forming an opinion,” Cesar said. “That outlook has stuck with me as I look to enter a field where communities are often at risk of being reduced to numbers on a screen.”



Cesar combined many interests into his Austin College learning experience. As a placekicker for 'Roos football, Cesar was named CoSIDA Academic All-District and the Bo Miller Scholar Athlete. He presented his business honors thesis on flood insurance participation in coastal counties to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientists and University of Oklahoma professors. As his thesis advisor said, “When professors ask for a copy of the paper and access to your data, you know you did well.” Cesar studied in Spain for a month and competed in Model United Nations in New York City. All was preparation for his future.



# A New Trajectory

PHOTO BY MORGAN RUSSELL



Jordan Castle envisioned a career in psychology research, but her Austin College involvements led her to seek out new paths that are much more hands on, as above at Buckner.

At her office at Buckner Children and Family Services, **JORDAN CASTLE '15** lives and works for families in her job as Ministry Engagement Coordinator for North Texas. Her office supports programs including foster care and adoption, kinship care, and programs for young women who have aged out of foster care, as well as single mothers and their children.

At Austin College, Jordan majored in Religious Studies and Psychology with plans for a career in research. She was interested in data about how people live, work, and behave. To put that into practice, she completed and presented an undergraduate psychology research project. Among other involvements, she also was a Sallie Majors

Religious Life Intern her senior year, working with Chaplain **Dr. John Williams '84** and the ACtivist ministry.

On a short trip to Camp Gilmont with the other Sallie Majors Interns, Jordan met Presbyterian minister Polly Williams, who introduced her to The Stewpot, a ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Dallas that provides meals and case work assistance to families experiencing homelessness. Polly told her about internship opportunities, and Jordan's plans began to change.

She secured an internship with The Stewpot that developed into three summers as a visiting youth director, then three years of full-time employment as a volunteer coordinator. "I totally credit that

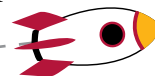


connection to Polly, and the opportunity through Austin College that gave me a way into the world of nonprofits in Dallas,” Jordan said.

“My experience at Austin College completely changed the path of my career and what I was and am passionate about,” she said. “I had no idea that I had a passion for volunteerism until I served as an intern and volunteered in various roles around Sherman, which changed my career trajectory. I had hoped to work in psychology research until I

learned that I love working with volunteers—and ended up in a job working with 45 volunteers a day.”

“Austin College definitely built my confidence and helped me understand myself more completely,” Jordan said. She plans to become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist as a continuation of her desire to serve people. “I developed that at Austin College,” she said, “and I don’t think I’d be headed down this career path if not for my education there.”



AUSTIN COLLEGE PHOTOS



Jordan's college life was full! She was a resident assistant, Admission tour guide, and president of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. She enjoyed the Activator youth ministry and leading the annual Presbyterian Senior High Youth Connection (SHYC). She and classmates traveled to Turkey and Austria to study Ottoman and Hapsburg history for a JanTerm. Jordan's generous spirit and volunteerism on and off campus were recognized with the Oscar C. Page Servant of the Year Award. She also found her husband-to-be, confidence in public speaking, and a new career direction. She's not finished yet; she's considering graduate studies in the future.





# Engage the Boosters



COURTESY PHOTO

In Eisenstadt, Austria, Rizwan Jagani absorbed the atmosphere of Haydn Concert Hall in Esterházy Palace—and began to realize his dreams of pursuing music professionally.

**RIZWAN JAGANI '15** arrived at Austin College as a Pre-Med student. That was followed by a short stint with a Pre-Engineering focus. Then, with the help of **Dr. Ricky Duhaime** of the Austin College Music Department faculty, Rizwan's mission became clear—acknowledge his gift of music, follow his heart, and major in Music.

"Austin College made me realize what I was truly meant to do and gave me the space to discover that," Rizwan said. "I always knew in the back of my head the importance of music in my life, but it did not manifest itself as an option for my future until I had mentors who helped nurture it."

Rizwan began playing viola at age 10 and continued throughout high school with private

lessons, solo competitions, and UIL all-region orchestra placement. At Austin College, he performed for four years in both the Sherman Symphony Orchestra and the Austin College Chamber Orchestra.

Duhaime, Chamber Orchestra director and Mildred S. Mosher Professor in Music, welcomed István Polónyi of the Szent István School of Music in Budapest to Austin College through the Mary Wright Visiting Artist Program in spring 2014. During his week on campus, the renowned Hungarian violist worked with students and master classes—and he met Rizwan Jagani.

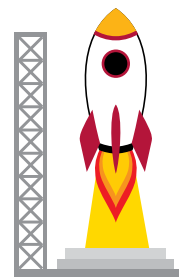
"I knew this could be important for Rizwan," Duhaime said. He noted that a great advantage



of studying at a small, liberal arts school is that students can be known for their talents and connected to mentors who can make a difference.

“István actually motivated me to pursue music professionally as he saw tremendous potential in me,” Rizwan said. Their friendship has continued as Rizwan has performed with his mentor at the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria, for four years; in August 2019 as associate principal violist, Rizwan was sitting next to Polónyi during performances.

After graduating from Austin College, Rizwan completed his master’s degree in Music at Carnegie Mellon University in May 2019. In August, he released a CD and digital download titled *Endless Night*, and he is working toward an Artist Diploma at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. As a tech-savvy music professional, Rizwan is exploring performance options and riding his dreams as far as they will go.



AUSTIN COLLEGE PHOTOS



Rizwan’s talents in music were always close to his heart, regardless of his area of study. As part of his decision to minor in Spanish, he says he had two incredible international study experiences—one in Chile and one in Mexico. In Mexico, he discovered a violin-making school and was able to borrow a locally-made viola for a week—a real highlight! He took part in Austin College’s KangaRAAS competitive Indian Garba/Raas dance team and was active in organizations that shared his cultural heritage. He credits Austin College with providing opportunities “to become who I am as a person and an artist.”



# COMPASS CURRICULUM

*For Navigating a Changing World*

## EXPERIENCE



## ENGAGE



## DISCOVER



## DEVELOP



## FOCUS



The Class of 2023 is the first to be guided by The Austin College Compass Curriculum. Combining tenets of the time-tested liberal arts education—like critical thinking and diversity awareness—with hands-on experiences and exploration from multiple perspectives, the curriculum delivers a powerful education for the 21st Century. Five Compass Curriculum elements guide students on their journey.

Through **Experience**, 'Roos connect their liberal arts education with learning beyond the classroom, as illustrated in the previous pages of "Good to Go." Compass includes at least one Applied Learning Experience, three January term courses, and the New Student Seminar, formerly Communication/Inquiry (C/I).

To further prepare for life in a global society, students **Engage** through one course in Global Diversity and one course in Systems of Power, Privilege, & Inequality. All students work toward competence in a language in addition to English.

Students **Discover** a range of disciplines and make important connections through the diverse requirements of the Compass Curriculum. All students take four courses in Humanities, two courses in Social Sciences, and two courses, one with a lab, in Sciences.

Compass directs students to **Develop** key abilities crucial to their future success. All students take one course in Foundational Writing and two courses in Advanced Writing. Students also take Quantitative Literacy to understand research methods used to gather and manipulate data.

Students **Focus** their efforts by choosing a major and minor from the College's 55 areas of study. All students must complete a major and minor, or two majors, for graduation.

Within this framework, students complete the requirements of the Compass Curriculum and leave Austin College "good to go" in their next steps toward rewarding careers and full, engaged, and meaningful lives. ■

## A CHANGING WORLD: NEW MASTER'S PROGRAM ON CAMPUS

Austin College and Texas Tech University signed a new partnership in fall 2019 that will allow Austin College students to "fast track" a master's degree in Mass Communications from Texas Tech, with Texas Tech faculty conducting the graduate courses on Austin College's campus. Watch for details on the website: [www.austincollege.edu/grad](http://www.austincollege.edu/grad)



# Just Keep Running

By Vickie S. Kirby



PHOTO BY NICHOLAS HUMMERT

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**At first glance, one can almost miss the resemblance between the two veteran members of the Austin College men's cross country team. Turns out, it's somewhat by design. Twins Chris and Johnny Biffar would look much more alike, identical in fact, if Chris didn't have long hair and a beard.**

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Sit with the two for a short conversation, though, and the brotherly connection isn't long disguised as the inside jokes, verbal shorthand, and friendly one-upmanship reveal the obviously close bonds.

The "all-in" 'Roos and successful juniors initially had no interest in attending Austin College, visiting as high schoolers only to satisfy their aunt, Karen Glenn, Chemistry Lab Coordinator at the College. Once on campus, their perspectives changed quickly.

First, they learned about academics and the faculty mentor program. They liked what they heard. Then, runners since 7th grade, the two met with Bryan Garcia, Cross Country Coach. The coach told them he didn't coach his team to Division III standards, as if those were somehow less than Division I. His benchmark, the coach said, is to make every athlete the very best he can be. Right away, Chris wanted to be a part of that.



**“The guys began to hold themselves accountable, and that is what creates a winning culture.”**

**— Bryan Garcia**  
***Cross Country Coach***

### A Team Effort

The record-setting cross country team poses as the men prepare to leave campus for their final tournament of the season. Left to right are Andrew Thomas '22, RJ Navarro '22, Charlie McIntyre '22, Johnny Biffar '21, Chris Biffar '21, and Coach Garcia.



Johnny, too, was sold. While college as a “package deal” wasn’t a given, the two were happy with that outcome. Though they described college as a huge culture change, they also felt that everyone at Austin College wanted them to succeed. Chris is completing a major in History and still deciding what path he will take career-wise; Johnny is completing a major in Art, with plans to work as a Graphic Designer. Academic life is going well.

They hadn’t had as much to celebrate in their athletic efforts. The men’s cross country team, formed in 2014, had never had a win. Five runners made up the fall 2019 team. As fall practice began, it was obvious that more than one teammate had not done the summer training they should have. “It looked like the beginning of another bad year,” said Chris, who confessed he was one of those teammates. The brothers described an early practice that “really did not go well” from Coach Garcia’s perspective. “When the coach left, the guys got together and got real about what we

wanted to do going forward—and we wanted to do better. We decided we didn’t want to be mediocre anymore,” Johnny said.

Coach Garcia remembers exactly the practice and the days following. “That was a turning point,” the coach remembered. “The guys began to hold themselves accountable, and that is what creates a winning culture.”

The coach has witnessed Johnny and Chris grow as leaders and as individuals. “Johnny is the most competitive guy I’ve ever met and it doesn’t matter what the competition is,” Garcia said. “He is also the most welcoming and inclusive guy. Chris is just the same. They are the backbone of our successful culture.”

Johnny and Chris explained that a cross country course could be up to 8 kilometers, taking about 28 minutes, and that while running, they get into a zone, stay aware of the guys around them and stay with them for most of the run, and go through a sort of mental checklist. “Arms, good. Legs, good. Breathing, good.”



In fall 2019, they were pretty successful with that checklist, but they'd had past difficulties. In previous seasons, Johnny might randomly collapse, get up, run, and maybe fall three or four more times in a race. Chris, too, has blacked out while running. Both young men have epilepsy.

The disorder was diagnosed when each had his first seizure as sophomores in high school. Since they had been running for several seasons, they never considered stopping and mostly kept the disorder under control. After fall 2018, though, more answers were needed as Coach Garcia took their condition very seriously. He had already required Johnny to skip distance track season for two springs. Without better control of his condition, he might have had to skip fall 2019, too.

That would have meant missing the good stuff when the cross country team started to pick up wins; the 2019 season had brought four wins and one second-place finish prior to the SCAC Championship in November in Colorado Springs. "As a coach, my job is to see weaknesses and help the team improve; there were no weaknesses in Colorado," Garcia said. "They ran

outstanding races." That success earned third place and a trip to the NCAA South/Southeast Regionals two weeks later. There, amidst their largest-ever field of nearly 240 runners and 35 teams, the 'Roos ran strong. Though they didn't take any top spots, they won their coach's pride and approval. "I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys to represent Austin College," Garcia said.

Chris said the full season was good for mental growth and that the team now has the confidence to race to win. "I feel like we're all beginning to realize our potential," he said. Johnny said reaching regionals for the first time in program history was obviously exciting, but in the future "making regionals is not a hope but an expectation." With the 2019 experience behind his teammates, he expects they will compete at a higher level. "The goal," Johnny said, "is to score in the top 10 at regionals next year."

That surely must have been some kind of meeting the teammates had to begin their season. Coach Garcia is proud of the dedication and work ethic that resulted. The Biffar twins and their teammates plan to just keep running. ■



PHOTO BY SYED KAMAL

## WINS FOR ATHLETICS

The Athletics Master Plan includes several strategic updates to facilities that will potentially benefit every member of the Austin College community. Those plans are a priority of the POWER Campaign—and there are some "wins" to share.

Hannah Natatorium locker room enhancements are noted as a major need in the plan, particularly with the addition of water polo to the sports lineup. Alumni are responding:

- \$250,000 from senior trustee **Ann Ross '66**
- \$250,000 from trustee **Tom Hall '81**
- \$100,000 from senior trustee **Lee Dean Ardell '74** and her husband Robert
- \$50,000 from trustee **Sarah Gunderson '81**

Efforts continue toward fully funding the natatorium locker room renovations.



PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS HUMBERT

The College's competition-level Russell Tennis Complex has been updated with a **\$500,000 gift from the Jordan Family Foundation** of Dallas, among other key

donors. The courts have been reconstructed; shaded spectator seating and other enhancements are in place. See the updates at the Jordan Family Courts at the Russell Tennis Center. (The foundation represents the families who funded Jordan Family Language House in 1998.)



To learn about gift opportunities in Athletics or to make a donation, contact **JR Ohr '07**, Director of Athletics Major Gifts and Engagement, at 903.813.2597 or [jrohr@austincollege.edu](mailto:jrohr@austincollege.edu).



DAN JOHNSON '77 LIVES BY A  
WARRIOR'S OATH IN HIS WORK  
AS THE CITY MANAGER OF  
RICHARDSON, TEXAS,  
A SUBURB OF DALLAS.





# Pledged to the Public Good

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

The Athenian Oath speaks of loyalty to the city that residents of ancient Athens had pledged to protect, and Dan Johnson quotes it with ease and sincerity. “We will strive unceasingly to quicken the public’s sense of civic duty. Thus, in all these ways, we will transmit this City not only, not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us,” he recites, then goes on to say, “Our city has had an amazing first orbit of development. It’s the birthplace of telecommunication with Texas Instruments and Collins Radio in the mid-1950s and is now enjoying a huge renewal effort as new businesses are coming in and redeveloping older areas.” That “orbit” has positioned Richardson as a high-technology corporate setting to more than 700 companies and 100,000 people.

With 42 years of experience in public administration, **Dan Johnson** ’77 says it was an internship at the City of Sherman while a student at Austin College that helped him find his way into the field. In the 1970s, law was the presumed track for most Political Science majors like Johnson, but he says he was haunted by the idea of something else.

“I walked into the City of Sherman offices and said, ‘Hi, I’m here. I work really hard,’” Johnson said. As an Austin College senior, he completed a directed study with the city that included hands-on work in the city offices, along with required readings and reports. He also assisted with the Community Development Block Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. That summer after

graduation, he returned to work and then stayed on in full-time employment while pursuing a master’s degree in Public Administration at the University of North Texas. By the time he was 22 years old, he had gone from Administrative Assistant to Budget Officer for the city.

“I think the thing Austin College did and does well is teach a spectrum of topics,” Johnson said. “It seems to me that a healthy liberal arts education actually parallels a healthy community spectrum with variety and diversity. For a city, it’s not only what the city does but also the school district and all the other providers that make up a set of institutions, like churches, social service agencies, you name it—all the ones that make up a community working together,” he said.



**E.A. Hoppe '04**  
*Deputy City Manager of Kerrville, Texas*



**David Morgan '82**  
*City Manager for Georgetown, Texas*

**Dr. Frank Rohmer**, Associate Professor of Political Science and The John D. Moseley Chair in Government and Public Policy, has taught many Austin College students who have gone on to successful careers in public administration. "By bringing the liberal arts to bear upon public problems, the public administrator can give a reasoned and disciplined voice to the people's demands, often making opinion more civil in its expression and public in its reach," he said. "Austin College students who work in public administration have demonstrated a willingness to subordinate their personal ambition to serve the public good and to expand their vision to see problems as a whole."

**E.A. Hoppe '04**, Deputy City Manager of Kerrville, Texas, and **David Morgan '82**, City

Manager for Georgetown, Texas, worked with and were mentored by Johnson during the early years of their public administration careers. They share common appreciation for the benefits of their Austin College education.

"A career in public administration usually requires a broad skill set," said Morgan. "I work with a team to spin lots of plates at one time and am constantly calibrating to changing priorities. My degree established a strong foundation in critical thinking, persuasive writing skills, and emotional intelligence. These strengths are timeless."

Hoppe added, "Regardless of the professional arena, public management in today's fast-paced and rapidly evolving society requires mental nimbleness and a commitment to lifelong learning."



## ANOTHER VOICE FOR GOOD



### A Small World

Traci Leach shared that she is one of six Austin College alumni who now work for the City of Coppell, with others serving as a captain in the city's Fire Department, the Director of Community Development, the City Secretary, the Budget Officer, and a police officer.

**Traci Leach '97**, now Deputy City Manager for the City of Coppell, Texas, hasn't worked directly with Dan Johnson but learned early in her career that he was well-respected in North Texas—and not just in local government circles. Upon completing a master's degree in Public Administration in 1999, she began her career in city management in Farmers Branch, Texas. She later spent nearly seven years as Assistant City Manager of LaPorte, Texas, before joining the City of Coppell team in 2017.

Leach had opportunities to meet Johnson along the way. "Being able to connect through our common ties to Austin College provided a great conversation starter for me as an early career professional when we met back in the mid-2000s," she said. "Dan is the consummate professional and has always been gracious with his time and advice when our paths have crossed at conferences."

"I love working in local government, where we have the opportunity to create relationships with the people we serve," Leach said. "In this time of change and uncertainty, I believe that we, as local government professionals and public servants, are building communities where people feel like they belong."

I distinctly remember my Economics professor, **Dr. Daniel Nuckols**, explaining that the majority of the material that students learned during their time at Austin College would be outdated within 10 years of graduating. The key take-away from that lesson was that the material itself was not the lesson. Instead, the liberal arts mantra is 'learning how to learn' and then continuing the lifelong learning for professional and personal success."

Johnson reminisced about the Austin College course "Heritage of Western Man" and its application to community work. "We were challenged with viewpoints, philosophies, and arguments about personal liberty, relationships to God, and embedded philosophies around governance. Those are the same things that now show up in council candidates as the rhetoric of

their platforms and positions," he said. Those studies remind him to pay attention to the development of the whole community—just like the development of the whole person.

"In all the ways the Athenian soldiers pledged their allegiance, some people pledge their lives to the community saying, 'I will try to manage these things we hold dear,' so others are free to do other things," Johnson said.

Adapting to the ever-changing world while ascribing to an ancient oath, Johnson is a leader in his profession and a warrior for his community. ■





# Leaves Book and Tea Shop

## A Mindful Approach to Business

By Leigh-Ellen Romm

**T**ea people appreciate a good pause. **Todd and Tina Miller Howard, both '99**, expect that the time it takes to steep a proper cup of tea can help their customers at Leaves Book and Tea Shop slow down and connect. Tucked between a brewery and an art studio in Fort Worth, Texas, Leaves has no drive-through and no Wi-Fi ... just tea and books.

"Leaves is a community gathering space where you are encouraged to pause from the hectic pace of life. That's our primary vision," Tina said. "Selling books and tea is the way we support that vision because reading a book requires someone to consider a particular topic for more than a 140-character tweet."

The shop opened in September 2018 and has many faithful, enthusiastic customers. They come for the tea; they come for the books and for the special events including story time, writers' forums, book club for business people, and late night gatherings for music, haiku, and other thoughtful things.

Tina and Todd met at Austin College, where she completed majors in Economics and Spanish, and he completed a major in Business. Although the Howards share ownership of Leaves, Todd also works as the Physician Recruitment Manager at Radiology Associates of North Texas in Fort Worth. Tina was self-employed as a photographer and

writer before opening the shop, and she said she can connect the value of a liberal arts education to the daily decisions of small business ownership.

"A liberal arts education broadens your perspective and exposes you to many ways of thinking. It teaches you how to analyze and synthesize information in new ways and to recognize that there's not just one way," she said. "My liberal arts education not only gave me a basis of knowledge to explore more deeply for insight but also helped me to understand the value of continuing to expose myself to more than just my field of business."

The business is a family affair; everyone, including their two young daughters, knows how to make tea and run the register. Tina said they made it through the first year of business with stress management and good friends. "And, underlying it all is the peace in knowing that we, as cheesy as it may sound, were called to do this," she said.

"We count our success by creating an environment that allows people to take a pause, even if it's for the few minutes they wait for their tea to steep," she said. "And, it encourages people to connect face-to-face with others. When we look around the shop and see that happening, or when people share with us that our shop is their oasis, that makes it all worth it." ■



Tina, an inaugural Austin College Leadership Institute Scholar in Fall Term 1995, recently hosted an after-hours College event at Leaves for best-selling mystery novelist **Deborah Crombie '77**, alumni, and friends.

*Learn more about the shop:* [www.leavesbookandteashop.com](http://www.leavesbookandteashop.com)

PHOTOS AT TOP LEFT, MIDDLE LEFT & TOP RIGHT BY TINA HOWARD '99  
REMAINDER BY CARY S. WACKER









PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS HUMMERT

George Diggs and Saritha Bangara in the IDEA Center

# Public Health Program Provides Popular Major and Minor

By Vickie S. Kirby

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Less than five years after Public Health was added to the Austin College curriculum, it is one of the top five majors among graduates.

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“This program answered a big unmet need in our curriculum,” explained **Dr. George Diggs**, Professor Emeritus of Biology, who has delayed full retirement to serve as co-director of the Public Health Program.

The arrival of his co-director, Epidemiologist **Dr. Saritha Bangara**, was a big step toward meeting that need. She came to Austin College in 2015 in a visiting role and became a tenure-track faculty member in 2016. **Dr. Mathias Akuoko**, whose specialty is Health Policy and Management,

also began as a visiting faculty member in 2016 and became tenure-track in 2018. This spring, Physician-in-Residence **Dr. Joyce Mauk**, a retired physician who will teach Public Health Advocacy, joins the two full-time faculty and Diggs, who, with a specialty in Environmental Health, continues in a part-time teaching role. For fall 2020, the program plans to add a faculty member specializing in Social and Behavioral Health.

The science of Public Health focuses on preventing or stopping the spread of illness and disease at the population level, while medical health professionals focus mainly on treating sickness and disease at an individual level. Public Health also works to limit health disparities.



Austin College's Public Health Program focuses on varied approaches to preventing disease, promoting health, and prolonging life. Courses provide a broad understanding of the field but also allow students to focus on particular aspects of public health they are most interested in, from the business and management side of public health to the scientific, policy, social, cultural, or clinical aspects.

"We are pleased to offer Public Health for students coming here with interest in the field, and many students planning to complete medical school are also interested in Public Health, as considerable overlap exists in the fields," Bangara said. "Public Health is sometimes viewed as a fallback option for students who find they are not cut out for medical school, but they soon realize it is not an 'easy' option. From 'Fundamentals of Public Health' to 'Epidemiology' to 'Biostatistics' and more, these are dense and intense courses."



In most cases a master's degree in Public Health is needed to open career doors, Bangara said. Austin College has Gateway agreements with Boston School of Public Health, Texas Tech, UT Tyler, and UT Dallas that allow qualified students to apply during their junior year without taking standardized tests. Students, of course, can apply to any Public Health program but these institutions currently have special Gateway agreements with the College.

Learning opportunities beyond the classroom provide further exploration of the field, like the JanTerm exploration of healthcare in Ghana led by Akuoko. Research is another option, and 2018 graduate **Ashley Chen '18**, who earned Honors in Public Health at graduation, traveled with Bangara in November 2019 to present research findings at the American Public Health Association in Philadelphia. Chen is an M.D./Master of Public Health student at UT Medical Branch at Galveston.

## PUBLIC HEALTH'S MOST WANTED: AMERICA'S TOP FIVE KILLERS

Saritha Bangara's 2019 Freshman Seminar Course

**Heart Disease | Cancer | COPD | Stroke | Alzheimer's Disease**

- **Nearly half of all Americans** suffer with at least one of these sinister chronic diseases.
- These diseases are responsible for more than **two-thirds of all deaths** in the U.S.
- These diseases will continue to rampage unless **lifestyle changes** are made regarding **tobacco use, poor nutrition, and lack of physical activity**.
- **One hundred years ago**, the majority of America's "top killers" were **infectious diseases**—pneumonia and flu, tuberculosis, diphtheria, and gastrointestinal infections.
- **Medical discoveries** like antibiotics, vaccinations, viral isolation, and serologic testing, along with **public health education** about sanitation, hygiene in food preparation, and medical care, have **wiped out several infectious diseases in the U.S.**





Interns Mahaa Siddiqui, Abiel Cardenas-Botello, Holly He, and Zain Kazmi interacted with several groups during their Paraguay experience.



Another opportunity, a summer Comparative Public Health Internship, pairs students with Grayson County United Way agencies for one month; students then travel to Paraguay for a two-week service learning experience with the organization OutreachPARAGUAY. The nonprofit operates each summer in collaboration with Paraguayan community leaders, educators, and health care professionals to get needed materials and services to resource-poor areas of Paraguay. The organization also seeks to develop mutual respect and friendship between the people of Paraguay and the United States.

In summer 2019, four Austin College students completed the internship and encountered several new perspectives as they interacted with the local agencies that address addiction, homelessness, mental health, and more. The trip to Paraguay brought further revelations as they encountered scarcity of resources, rural health limitations, cultural differences, and sometimes limited access to health care.

The interns and their hosts were part of a Mobile Health Clinic team providing diabetes and hypertension screening and education, as well

as dental hygiene education, to elementary-aged children. The student interaction with the local community is especially important for Outreach Paraguay director and co-founder Eileen Sosa. “We want students to understand and recognize the impact of psychosocial, environmental, political, and cultural context on the health of an individual and a community,” she said. “We strongly believe that it is by sitting at the same table, sharing a meal, and sharing stories that we learn with and from one another.”

She said the Austin College students took every opportunity to pitch in to help and to learn from their hosts. “It is our hope that everyone that travels with us to Paraguay has been changed in some way by what they have seen and experienced, and by what they learned from the Paraguayan people,” Eileen said. “We want them to return home better citizens, committed to efforts aimed at reducing health disparities, both locally and globally.”

Back on campus for the 2019 fall semester, the interns presented their experiences and expressed their desires to do just that, no matter what directions their careers may take them. ■





**Zain Kazmi '21**, center, plans to work as a health care administrator. "My goal is to increase the access to health care for impoverished communities, as well as for women and children."



**Abiel Cardenas-Botello '21**, at right, hopes to transfer his public health, creativity, Spanish language, and Latin American cultural experiences to a position within health care.



Eileen Sosa is a former Peace Corps volunteer to Paraguay who founded OutreachPARAGUAY with her husband, Milner Sosa, who was born in Paraguay. When not in Paraguay, they are in Pennsylvania, where Eileen is a Family Nurse Practitioner and Milner teaches Spanish and coaches soccer in middle school and high school. They and their three sons are familiar with Austin College; Eileen's brother is President Steven O'Day.



"I really appreciate the hospitality of the people of Paraguay," said **Mahaa Siddiqui '21**. "I can never repay them for all that I gained from my experiences. I hope to utilize everything that I learned in my future aspirations." She plans to be a physician.



"Volunteering in the rural communities of Paraguay broadened my perspectives on the disparities of health care, furthering my aspiration to practice rural health as a primary care physician," said **Holly He '20**.

## Power to the 'Roos

### Campus Renovations Refresh Key Buildings

By November 30, 2019, one year after **President Steven O'Day** publicly announced the Power Austin College Campaign, fundraising had reached 89% of the \$125 million goal. As the calendar changes to a new year, additional giving continues to move the needle ever closer to the goal. Along with funding for scholarships and the endowment, the Campaign raises money for strategic capital improvements across the campus.

#### Wynne Chapel Reopens in 2020

Renovation of Wynne Chapel will be completed in early 2020, beginning a new chapter in the life of the iconic building. The interior of the 60-year-old structure has been upgraded while preserving the integrity of the original architecture as the place of worship on campus. The newly named **Clifford J. Grum Sanctuary** includes removable seating, fully retractable screens, new flooring, and an improved sound system. The new **Sallie Majors Chapel**, known for years simply as “the small chapel,” is newly named and refreshed. Gifts from the **Mary K. and Clifford Grum Foundation** of Lufkin, Texas, and from **Joyce and Robert Johnson '53** of McLean, Virginia, funded the updates.

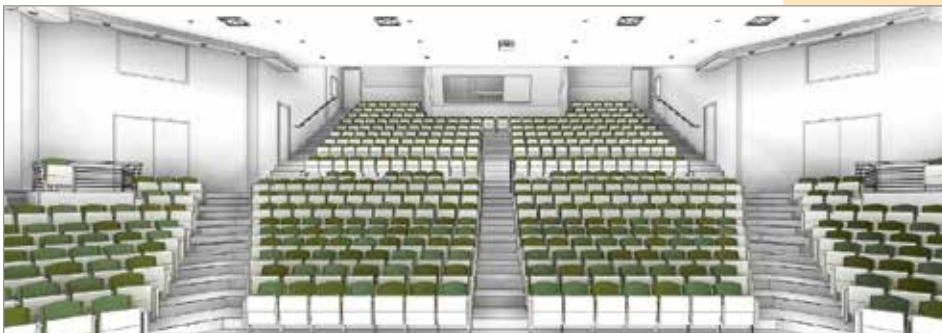


Once complete, Wynne Chapel's renovated Clifford J. Grum Sanctuary (above) will offer new options for campus events. Left: The smaller Sallie Majors Chapel also will gain a fresh look.



## The Stage is Set for Ida Green

Renovation of the first floor of Ida Green Communication Center is underway and expected to be complete by the opening of Fall Term 2020. Funded by a major gift from **Jim and Sally Robinson Nation '64**, the renovations include upgrades to the main theatre—to be renamed Sally and Jim Nation Theatre—and the creation of a new learning commons for gathering and collaboration.



## New Rooms for 'Roos Opening Fall 2020



As more students choose to live on campus during their senior year, additional housing is under construction to hold approximately 130 students. Structured like The Flats at Brockett Court, the new North Flats near Jordan Family Language House will include community rooms, and fully furnished, suite-style residences, each with four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a living area, and a full kitchen.



**A MOB OF PREACHERS:** Alumnae met up at the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators National Conference in Galveston, Texas, in February 2019. From left to right are **Rev. Katy Walters '07**, Associate Pastor of New Braunfels Presbyterian Church in New Braunfels, Texas; **Rev. Sarah Demarest Allen '03**, Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Austin, Texas; and **Rev. Keatan King '09**, Associate Pastor of St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas.



**'ROOS AROUND THE GLOBE:** Nick Timmerman '11, Suzanne Francis Timmerman '15, and Mariam Chaudhry '07 discovered fellow 'Roos in Kinshasa, DR Congo, at a British Embassy event. Nick is the performing arts teacher for middle and high school students at American School of Kinshasa, and Suzanne is local staff at the U.S. Embassy. Mariam and her husband, Nathan Cutler, moved to Kinshasa in March 2019. Mariam was a Program Analyst with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for five years in Washington, D.C., prior to the move and remains with the agency, where her husband is a Foreign Service Officer.



**GOLDEN 'ROOS:** Members of the Class of 1969 celebrated the 50th anniversary of their Austin College graduation during Commencement 2019 and officially joined the Golden 'Roo Society as **President Steven O'Day** presented each a 50-year medallion. See more photos: [www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos](http://www.austincollege.edu/goldenroos)

Page 54 **'ROO LEGACIES**

Page 56 **'ROO-MATES**  
*Recent Weddings*

Page 59 **JOEYS**  
*Additions to the 'Roo Family*

**2020**  
**HOMECOMING &  
FAMILY WEEKEND**  
**OCTOBER 16-18**



# 'ROONOTES

## 1962

**Cervando Martinez** reports he is still employed at The University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, seeing patients, doing research, and teaching, though he says he is winding down in preparation for retirement. He also keeps up with old friends, including 'Roos Raymond Capetillo, Ed Bondurant, Marshall Groce, Charles "Ace" Wright '61, and others.

## 1963

**Jerry Shaffer** was inducted into the Fannin County (Texas) Sports Hall of Fame in 2019, having excelled in football, basketball, baseball, and track and field in high school, and football at Austin College. He became the Head Football Coach of the Wylie Pirates and coached his teams to a 126-48-2 record in 15 seasons, including a state championship. He later was Athletic Director for the Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD and is now a Collin County Justice of the Peace.

## 1967

**Mike Nurre** was elected chair of the Greater East Dallas Chamber of Commerce in January 2019.

## 1969

**John Gifford** and **Anne Baker Gifford** have achieved a

major travel accomplishment: they have visited all 50 states of the U.S. They didn't start with that goal, and they don't have a complicated system as to what "qualifies" as a visit. Sometimes it's just passing over the border. Their favorite places to go are anywhere their son, a Lt. Colonel in the Army, is stationed. The Giffords have two sons and eight grandchildren between the ages of 6 and 15. They also have seen and photographed all 254 county courthouses in Texas. Anne finds the prettiest courthouse architecture in Goliad and Lockhart. Going a bit farther afield in summer 2019, they took a European river cruise on the Danube with fellow alumna Carol Wilson Scott.

## 1970

**Gary Goodfriend** has retired from the commercial banking industry after a 41-year career. He worked in senior-level positions with commercial banks in Houston, Dallas, and Austin, Texas, as well as with the FDIC and RTC during the Texas banking crisis in the 1980s. He now lives in Round Rock, Texas.

## 1972

**Carol McDonald** was elected chair of the Board of Trustees of Huston-Tillotson University in Austin, Texas, in April 2019. She has been a board member

of that university—Austin's oldest—since 2015. Carol also has begun her second three-year term as a member of the board at Schreiner University, a Presbyterian university in Kerrville, Texas, that will celebrate its centennial in 2023.

## 1973



**Linda Whitworth Reed** and **David Reed '74** are honorably retired Presbyterian ministers now living in Conway, Arkansas. David retired in 2012 from Mission Presbytery after serving since 1994, planting new congregations and serving various interim and transitional pastoral roles in churches throughout Texas and the South. Linda continued serving until February 2018. They are active at First Presbyterian Church of Conway, as well as The Presbytery of Arkansas, and supply-preach and fill other needs occasionally. Linda is a certified master gardener. David stays busy with woodworking, as well as arranging and recording music in his studio.

## 1974

**John Moore** was a teacher, coach, and principal for

29 years. Then, he retired to Marble Falls, Texas, and entered the car sales business. He and his wife of 42 years, Diane, moved to that area to take care of their parents. John and Diane have three sons and seven grandchildren.

**Jane Kelly Sibley** has been a docent at the Dallas Museum of Art for the past 12 years, giving tours of the permanent collection, as well as visiting exhibits, to K-12 students. She and her husband live in Richardson, where he has retired from his corporate job to teach Energy Management at The University of Texas at Dallas.

## 1975

**Allen Wallace** retired in August 2019 after almost 40 years in the field of juvenile justice/corrections in Texas. Throughout his career, he served in numerous capacities, including Regional Parole Supervisor for the North Texas region. He also served as Superintendent of a juvenile correctional facility in southeast Texas, a residential treatment center in Dallas, a juvenile detention center in Beaumont, and a juvenile re-entry halfway house in Fort Worth. At retirement, he was Senior Deputy Ombudsman in the Office of the Independent Ombudsman for the Texas Juvenile Justice Department in the Fort Worth District Office.

## 1979

**Ty Cashion** is an award-winning historian, author of six books, a member of the prestigious Institute of Texas Letters, an Austin College Distinguished Alumnus, and now—40 years after his graduation from Austin College—a member of Phi Beta Kappa. Austin College chartered its Phi Beta Kappa chapter in 2001, long after Ty graduated, but the chapter may induct an alumna/alumnus each spring, and he was the 2019 inductee. Ty is a Professor of History at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

## 1981

**Anne Stapleton Skrabanek** was one of 10 winners nationwide in the 2018 Monsanto America's Farmers Mom-of-the-Year Program. She is actively involved in the family farm/ranch operation and volunteers in many activities in her community, including leading a weekly Library Story Time, serving as chair for the Rural Land Development Committee for the Blackland Income Growth Conference, and serving as Home Economics committee member for Falls County Youth Fair. Her favorite volunteer activity is

serving as Club Manager for Otto 4-H Club. As a program winner, she was able to choose a nonprofit to receive the \$1,000 award from Monsanto. She chose the Falls County 4-H program.

## 1982

**Charla Glass Aldous** received honors from several organizations last year for her work in the courtroom, including the 2019 Louise B. Raggio Award from the Dallas Women Lawyers Association. Named for the DWLA co-founder and the first female prosecutor in Dallas County history, the annual award recognizes someone who has demonstrated the highest levels of professionalism while making significant contributions to the advancement of women attorneys.

## 1983

**Colleen Head Batchelor** was named Interim CEO in April 2019 of The Resource Exchange in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a nonprofit that partners with individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities to help them achieve the life they want. She had been Child and Family Services

Director at TRE since 2009 and has more than 30 years of experience in early child development, disability, and intervention.

## 1984

**Roger Gregory-Allen** and **Viki Reeder** moved into their motorhome in fall 2019 and look forward to travels around the U.S. They will chronicle their travels and reflections on [www.ramblingroos.net](http://www.ramblingroos.net) and on Instagram @ramblingroos.

**Rodney Moore** was included in The Best Lawyers in America 2020. He is a



partner in the Dallas-based offices of Weil, Gotshal & Manges, where

he practices in the areas of corporate law, mergers, and acquisitions law.

**Danny Henderson** became the coach of the Maypearl High School boys basketball program in fall 2019. He has more than 30 years of coaching experience, including stints at Division I schools. He has coached teams to all levels of playoff victory, including four state

titles, and been recognized several times in his coaching career, including as a finalist for the Naismith National High School Coach of the Year and selection as TABC Texas Coach of the Year, Texas Sportswriters Coach of the Year, and the Southwest United States Coach of the Year. Following his 25-year high school tenure, Henderson held assistant coaching roles at Boise State, Oklahoma State University, and Tulsa University.

## 1985

**Jeff Burley** joined East Texas-based Siebman, Forrest, Burg & Smith in the firm's



Sherman office in 2019. He has more than 30 years of experience in cases

involving business litigation, employment disputes, personal injury, and wrongful death. A Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, he has been committed to his local community, including serving as Head of School for Texoma Christian School in Sherman and as a member of the Leadership Advisory Council for the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools.



## A DISTINGUISHED 'ROO

**Sallie Sampsell Watson '78**, the General Presbyter for Mission Presbytery, was named a 2019 Distinguished Alumna of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary "in grateful recognition for distinguished service to the Church." Sallie holds a Master of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, and an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Austin College. As the General Presbyter for Mission Presbytery, she serves 134 congregations in Texas, California, and Utah.



## 1986

**Fred Junkin** has joined Phelps Dunbar's Houston, Texas, office as partner,



where he will focus his practice on energy, eminent domain, and

litigation issues. He is an accomplished trial lawyer with nearly three decades of experience.

### Heather Crawford

**McLaughlin** began Stevenson University's master's degree program in Forensic Investigation in fall 2019. A Compliance Coordinator for the Maryland Board of Pharmacy, she earned Certified Fraud Examiner status in 2017 and serves on the ACFE MD Board. She was re-elected to the board of the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators in October 2018.

## 1989



### Nicole Ryan Corkery

became a partner in Chartwell Law in January

2019 and works for the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, office, focusing on workers' compensation defense. She has more than 20 years of experience in the field and appears regularly before the Pennsylvania Workers' Compensation Court and Appeals Board. She was previously with Littler Mendelson, a global employment and labor law practice.

## 1990

**Cliff Boucher** is Dean for the School of Nursing & Health Sciences at Tyler Junior College and



previously served as Dean of TJC North. A TJC alumnus, he went on to Austin

College, then earned a doctorate at the University of Michigan and completed a postdoctoral research fellowship at Harvard Medical School. He has received many honors during his career, which has included teaching at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, the University of Michigan, Harvard University Medical School, and UT Tyler.

## 1991

**Dale Trompler** was inducted into the Fannin County (Texas) Sports Hall of Fame in 2019. He was a three-year starter at quarterback at Bonham High School, earning all-district and all-Texoma honors, and a standout in baseball, and track and field. He continued those three sports at Austin College, earning all-conference honors as quarterback. Dale became a football coach, leading successful teams at Wolfe City for eight years then coaching at Greenville, Whitewright, and Bonham. He is now an Offensive Coordinator and Track and Field Coach at Early High School.

### Dawn McMellen Starostka

was named Network Development Officer in 2019 for Feeding Texas, a nonprofit based in Austin and formerly known as the Texas Food Bank Network. Dawn says the position means a return to the great state of Texas.

## 1997

**Rosemary Vega** returned to campus in fall 2019 to speak at the "Reflections on Immigration" Symposium sponsored by the Center for

Southwestern and Mexican Studies. An immigration attorney and clinical lecturer with the University of Houston Law Center's Immigration Clinic, she began her interest in immigration law through the International Human Rights Clinic at St. Mary's Law School and has advocated for immigrants since beginning her degree. Before taking on her current work, she served as the staff attorney at YMCA International Services, was a partner with Tausk & Vega, and was in private practice in her own firm. Rosemary is the current American Immigration Lawyers Association/ Executive Office for Immigration Review liaison for Houston.

## 1998

**Brandy Baxter-Thompson** moved to the law firm of Lan Smith Sosolik in Dallas, Texas, in 2019 as a partner practicing in estate, trust, and guardianship matters. In 2018, she was honored by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program (DVAP) with the 2018 Ken Fuller Outstanding Mentor Attorney Award, and the Dallas Bar Association Probate Section awarded her the 2019 Nikki DeShazo Pro Bono Award.



## AN OFFICIAL SWEARING IN

**Robert Burns '86** was sworn in January 1, 2019, as Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals for the Fifth District of Texas at Dallas. Chief Justice Burns had previously served for 12 years as the Judge of The Criminal District Court of Dallas County. After graduating from Austin College, Chief Justice Burns attended Southern Methodist University School of Law, was a prosecutor in the Dallas County District Attorney's Office for six years, and then spent 10 years in private practice before joining the judiciary. He is the 14th Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals in Dallas since its founding in 1893.

## WELCOME HOME TO TEXAS



**Tim Kennedy '98** has had two distinct career paths since his Austin College days. Upon graduation, he headed to Washington, D.C., for a 13-year career on Capitol Hill, at the White House, and at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. He spent 2011 to 2014 at Yale Divinity School, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree and an Anglican Diploma plus a certificate in Educational Leadership and Ministry from Berkeley Divinity School at Yale. He spent the next five years as Chaplain at Washington Episcopal School. In June 2019, he was ordained as a Transitional Deacon in the Episcopal Church, and he became the Middle School and Upper School Chaplain at The Episcopal School of Dallas in August 2019. Tim hopes to be ordained as an Episcopal priest in the next year. His Doctor of Ministry in Educational Leadership is in progress through Virginia Theological Seminary.

## 2001

**Andrew French** earned an MBA in Healthcare Administration from the University of Colorado Denver in 2019. He had



completed his M.D. at University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 2006. He is now Chief Medical Officer at St. Anthony North Health Campus of Century Health in Westminster, Colorado. He previously was Chief Medical Officer of St. Anthony's sister hospital, Castle Rock Adventist, and had served as Medical Director of the Emergency Department for Denver Health Medical Center.

## 2002

**Stephanie Allaire Flores MAT '03** became Director of Intervention Services for the Coppell (Texas) ISD in July



2019. For the past four years, she had served as the Coordinator of Special Education for Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD and previously had been an Educational Diagnostician in that district, serving as a resource teacher, special education team leader, and a fourth grade teacher. Stephanie and her husband, James, a firefighter for the City of Dallas, live in Carrollton and have three children, Avery, 12; Carly, 9; and Hudson, 6.



**Jeff Riordan** was named Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at Chapel Hill High School in Tyler, Texas, in February 2019. He had been Head Coach and Athletic Director at Crosby High School for seven years, compiling a 66-18 record at the Class 5A school and leading his teams to six playoff appearances, four district championships, and a trip to the state semifinals. He and his wife have two children.

**Rusty Hicks** was elected chair of the California Democratic Party in June 2019. He is President of the Los Angeles



County Federation of Labor and previously served as its Executive Secretary-Treasurer and its Political Director. Rusty, who graduated from Loyola Law School, is also a decorated U.S. veteran who completed a one-year deployment in Afghanistan. He and his wife, Sandra, live in Pasadena.

**Lindsay Williambrown** is a founding director of Kanarys, a transparency-driven consultancy in Dallas,





Texas, that deals with inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility. She holds an MBA from Penn State University. She was a 2019 TEDxAustinCollege presenter.

## 2003

**Cat Dodson Goodrich** is Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. She was included in an article about several female pastors in a Birmingham magazine in 2019. A few years after graduating from Boston University School of Theology, Cat discerned a call to parish ministry, and she and her husband, Dary, moved to Atlanta. There she served three years as a Resident Pastor at Central Presbyterian Church through the Lilly Foundation's Transition into Ministry program before taking her current position. Cat and Dary have two daughters.

**Casie Fontaine Rivas** opened Rivas Law in Sherman in May 2019. After more than 10 years of business and corporate law experience in Texas and Oklahoma, Casie is excited to practice in her hometown and support local business.

## 2006

**John Bucy III** was recognized by his peers as the Texas House Democratic Caucus Freshman of the Year in May 2019. Elected in 2018, John represents District 136 in the Texas House of Representatives. He said he is grateful for the support and mentorship he has received from his colleagues.

**Katie Deeds-Holland** is a Youth Services Librarian at the Prosper Community Library in Prosper, Texas. She plans and presents tween and teen programming, Homeschool Learn and Network, and story times for babies and preschoolers. Last fall, she presented "Story Time on the Road" at Prosper Fire Station #2, and she is working on a Harry Potter-themed escape room. Katie and her husband, Joseph, live in Denton, where he owns and operates Denton Bicycle Center.

**Matt Ellington** is a Pediatric Orthopedic Surgeon in Austin, Texas. He specializes in Pediatric Sports Medicine and takes call at Dell Children's Hospital, a level-1 pediatric trauma center. He also is on the faculty at UT Dell Medical School, where he teaches orthopedic

residents. Matt and his wife have two children, daughter Brynn, 5, and son Jack, 2.



**Jake Shockley** was inducted into the Fannin County Sports Hall of Fame in 2019. Jake was a standout baseball and football player at Bonham High School from 1998 to 2001, earning all-Texoma honors as a wide receiver in football and as a shortstop in baseball. He played baseball at North Lake College in Irving and then at Austin College, where he set numerous school records.

## 2007

**Becca Harpham May**, Vice President of Marketing for Nature Nate's Honey Company, was selected to the 2019 *Dallas Business Journal* "40 Under 40" listing. Nature Nate's Honey is headquartered

in McKinney, Texas, and is recognized as the #1 honey brand in the United States and on Amazon. Becca says her family, including two young children, likes its honey best straight from the jar.



**David Savage** earned his M.D. and Ph.D. from the Medical Scientist Training Program at The University of Texas McGovern Medical School and the MD Anderson Cancer Center UT Health Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 2018. Dr. Savage is now an internal medicine resident physician at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. He said he will forever be grateful to the late Dr. Jack Pierce and his Austin College faculty for helping him get into an M.D./Ph.D. program. He is pictured with his wife, Elizabeth Frost. They were married September 20, 2019.



## MOVIN' ON UP

**Adam Groshans '05** is President of Mercy Health—Springfield, Ohio, having moved into the position permanently after a brief interim role. He had been on staff as Chief Operating Officer for two years. Before joining Mercy Health, Adam served on the administrative team for Tennova Healthcare in Lebanon, Tennessee, and was Senior Director of Marketing and Business Development for Dallas Regional Medical Center. Active in Kiwanis International and other community initiatives, Adam was a 2018 *Dayton Business Journal* "Forty Under 40" honoree.

## 2007 (continued)

**John Warren** is Editor of **Fanbyte.com**, the recently rebranded ZAM, which is a network of sites focusing on MMORPGS (massively multi-player online role-playing games). He predicts more gaming production jobs that focus on low-budget, high production events. "My work so far on Fanbyte is some of the most rewarding of my career, which has gone from game development to startup consulting and now to media production. We're expanding aggressively to Twitch streams and video this year, so stay tuned."

## 2008



**Carl Antonowicz** accompanied his wife, graphic novelist **Sophie Goldstein**, on a visit to Austin College's Art and

Art History Department in April 2019, where she presented "The Alchemy of Inspiration: Graphic Novels in Development." Sophie and Carl are pictured with **Jeff Fontana** of the Art Department faculty and a student reader.



**Tamir Anver** has completed his oral surgery residency, and he and his wife—his Austin College sweetheart **Hailey (Cunningham)**—now live in the Dallas area with their children, Zain, 2, and Sophia, 1. Tamir primarily works in Denton at Vickers & Associates Oral Surgery.

**Laura Westerlage** began serving as a part-time Pastoral Intern at First Presbyterian Church of Dallas in June 2019. She is also



Director of Client Services at The Stewpot, an

outreach center that provides casework assistance and enrichment programs to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The center also offers children, youth, and family stabilization programs to at-risk children and their families. Laura attended Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and UT School of Social Work, earning master's degrees in Social Work and in Divinity in 2013. In 2016, she moved to Dallas to begin her "dream job" at The Stewpot and says she has a lifelong love of the church, having grown up a Presbyterian preacher's kid.

## 2009

**Maegan Fitzgerald** spoke to Austin College students in April 2019, hosted by the Center for Environmental Studies. She shared her experiences as a doctoral student in Primatology and

Wildlife Sciences at the Wildlife Research Center of Kyoto University, Japan, where she is conducting research on the behaviors of chimpanzees.

**Aaron Flores** is a real estate and communications professional in Houston, who



served on Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner's transition team on public

health policy and quality of life. He also was an inaugural appointee to the mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board. He was a 2019 TEDxAustinCollege presenter.

**Jessica Wescott** became Chief Financial Officer for Fuzzy's Taco Shop in



September 2019. She had been Executive Vice President

of Finance for the Baja-inspired franchise since January 2018, when she

## FROM CAMPER TO DIRECTOR



**Henry Owen '05/MAT '06** is Executive Director of John Knox Ranch, a Presbyterian summer camp and retreat center near Wimberley, Texas. He grew up in the Presbyterian Church and continued his leadership and spiritual development at Austin College through the ACTivators program. After graduation, he taught second grade in Austin, Texas, for a few years before he and his wife, **Emily J. Richardson Owen '05**, moved to Charlotte, North Carolina, where he established a nonprofit project, Friendship Gardens. Before moving to John Knox Ranch, Henry spent four years as

Executive Director of the Nature Discovery Center in Houston. Emily is a former John Knox Ranch camper, an ordained Presbyterian pastor, and has practiced ministry in a church setting and as a hospital chaplain. She currently serves as pastor of Hyde Park Presbyterian Church in Austin. Together they have two sons, Jack Henry, 8, and Ross, 5, who Henry says might be the most excited in the family about living at the Ranch. Owen said he looks forward to opportunities to strengthen the partnership between Austin College and John Knox Ranch.



left her former role as Vice President of Development and Finance with MOOYAH Burgers, Fries & Shakes. Jessica began her career in wealth management and finds many similarities in working with franchises since she believes both fields are about relationships and helping partners succeed.

## 2011



**Matthew Myers** returned to campus in fall 2019 to speak in the "Reflections on Immigration" Symposium sponsored by the Center for Southwestern and Mexican Studies. He is an attorney with the Foster immigration law firm, focusing on employment and investor immigration. He also serves as Chair Elect of the Immigration & Nationality Section of the State Bar of Texas. Prior to joining Foster, Matthew clerked for U.S. Chief Judge Orlando Garcia for the Western District of Texas, as well as for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Chief Counsel.

## 2012

**Ben Elberson** received the Francis C. Jackson Award for outstanding performance in the surgical clerkship as he graduated from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in May 2019, completing his M.D./Ph.D. His wife, **Jill Murphy Elberson '13**, completed her master's degree in English

at Texas Tech and recently published a joint piece in *Spark: A 4C4Equality Journal* with members of her class on African-American writings about race and injustice. Ben, Jill, and their 1-year-old son, Owen, have moved to Little Rock, where Ben began a seven-year residency in Neurosurgery at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in fall 2019.



**Ayvaunn Penn (Marian Fields)** is thrilled to be home in Texas and working as an adjunct instructor in the Theatre Department at Texas Christian University and as a theatre instructor for Junior Players in Dallas. She also recently served as a guest playwriting instructor at Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts in Dallas. Ayvaunn earned a master's degree in Playwriting at Columbia University in 2018 and was the School of the Arts Dean's Fellowship recipient. Read more about this director, lyricist, actor, and composer and her work to inspire and advance black excellence in art and education at [ThePennSpeaks.com](http://ThePennSpeaks.com).

**Katelyn Heath** lived in Paris, France, for five years after graduation. Just prior to leaving the country, she worked as the English Community Manager in the International Promotion Department of the Galeries Lafayette Haussmann luxury department store. She

devised and implemented outreach strategy to target American shoppers through social media and digital marketing. Since March 2018, she has been Senior Communications Associate at the French-American Chamber of Commerce in New York City, which has more than 1,000 individual and corporate members.

**Michael Holcomb** received a master's degree in Physics in 2013 and a Ph.D. in Physics in 2019, both from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.



In fall 2019, he began a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of Physics at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas.

**Chanel Rafie** and partners have opened Rafie Douglas Abney Law in Dallas, Texas. They graduated from Texas



A&M University School of Law together and now practice personal injury law and social security disability cases. Find them at [TitansLegal.com](http://TitansLegal.com).

## 2014

**Austin Brewster** was named District Co-Coach of the Year after his success as Girls Head Basketball Coach at Faith Family Academy in DeSoto, Texas. The coach had just completed his second year and his team's

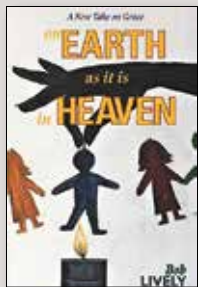
overall record in district was a program best, leading to the girls' first playoff berth in school history.

**Brittney Connor**, a third-grade bilingual teacher with Dallas ISD, was selected as a Dallas County Campus Voices Fellow for 2019-2020, an outreach of Leadership ISD. The cohort focuses on making public education a strong and viable option for all students by activating community leaders to shape policy, lead strategically, and champion needed change. Brittney teaches at Paul L. Dunbar Learning Center in Fair Park.

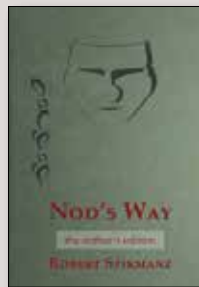
**Victoria Flores** earned an MBA from Texas A&M-Commerce in May 2019. In 2016, she began working for Baylor Scott & White Research Institute at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas as Clinical Research Assistant and later, Research Analyst, working with financial forecasting, budget creation, and Medicare coverage analysis. She was promoted to Research Project Manager in September 2019.

**Aryn Hays** earned a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2016 and began working as a Process Development Engineer at Cree in the power and RF division dubbed as Wolfsped. Cree Wolfsped is a powerhouse semiconductor company focused on silicon carbide (SiC) materials, power-switching devices, and RF devices targeted for applications such as electric vehicles, fast charging, inverters, power supplies, telecom, military, and aerospace. Her process and  
(continued on Page 53)

## ALUMNI BOOKSHELF



**Robert Lively '68** has written a new book, *On Earth as it is in Heaven ... A New Take on Grace*, released by Treaty Oak Publishing in Austin, Texas. Bob is an honorably retired Presbyterian minister, having served for four decades as pastor, teacher, certified pastoral counselor, campus minister, and recovery center chaplain. He has written 12 books, including one novel.



**Robert Lewis (aka Stikmanz) '78** finished his latest book *Nod's Way*, scheduled for release in late 2019. The book, together with special dice, comprise a fantasy divination system that is also a poetical work ordered by play and chance. The book is bilingual in English and his created language Dvarsh.



**Kim Powers '79** has turned his writing talents to the stage with the comedy *Sidekicked* that offers revelations from Vivian Vance, who portrayed the famous sidekick Ethel Mertz in every crazy Lucy and Ethel mishap of the *I Love Lucy* show. Kim says he truly does love Lucy, and he must love Ethel, too. He has a new novel, *Rules for Being Dead*, scheduled for release in May 2020. When he's not writing plays and novels, he is Senior Writer for ABC's *20/20* newsmagazine.



**Nicole Mittenfelner Carl '06**, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education, has published a new co-authored book with Harvard Education Press, *Applied Research for Sustainable Change: A Guide for Education Leaders*.



## MAKING BEAUTIFUL MUSIC



**Rizwan Jagani '15** released the album *Endless Night* of his viola instrumental performance, completed in the final semester of his 2019 master's degree in Music

at Carnegie Mellon University. The album includes some of his favorite musical theatre pieces, each including original orchestrations, produced tracks, and viola parts. Rizwan's recording professor assisted him with the album after discovering his YouTube channel: [www.YouTube.com/RizwanJaganiViolist](http://www.YouTube.com/RizwanJaganiViolist).

## EMPATHETIC PHYSICIAN IN TRAINING



**Dilan Shah '17** worked for a year after graduation and spent another year backpacking around the globe to enrich his sense of global citizenship. In fall 2019, he began his

medical school career as a Dorman Scholar in the inaugural class at the Texas Christian University and University of North Texas Health Science Center School of Medicine in Fort Worth, Texas. The program aims to mold empathetic scholars and redefine medical education to create physicians better prepared for the future of medicine through patient-centered training and innovation.



## 2014 (continued)

equipment specialties are wire bonding and bond testing, plasma cleaning, laser marking, and ultrasonic welding. Aryn lives in the Fayetteville, Arkansas, area, where she is a member of Ozark Volleyball Club and enjoys activities with her dog, June, a Catahoula-Lab mix.

## 2015

**Libby Wise Janes** and **Jesse Janes** moved to New York City during summer 2019 after Jesse completed his M.D. at Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Medicine. He began his Pediatric residency at NYU School of Medicine—NYU Langone in June. Libby, who completed her master's degree in Social Work at Texas Tech in 2018, began work in fall 2019 as a Licensed Master Social Worker at NYU Langone's Cardiology Unit.

**Kusha Mohammadi** is a third-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Biostatistics and Data



Science at The University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston.

He is an intern at the Baylor College of Medicine and Memorial Hermann Trauma Center, providing statistical insight into cancer and patient care data analysis. He is also working on his dissertation in statistical inference on stochastic modeling with application in Alzheimer's disease. He was a 2019 TEDxAustinCollege presenter.

## 2016

**Joel Barrett** is a fourth-year medical student at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, expecting to complete his degree in May 2020. He is completing clinical rotations in Amarillo, Texas, and applying for residency training in Psychiatry to begin in July 2020.

**Nicole Collier** is a Research Associate and, as of September 2019, Interim



Executive Director for the Nonprofit Academic Center Council at the

Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. She earned a master's degree in Nonprofit Management in 2018 from the Bush School.

**Sarah Dillabough** returned to El Paso after graduating and worked as a Legislative Intern in the district office of Texas Senator José Rodríguez. She then did a one-year AmeriCorps VISTA service assignment with the City of El Paso Resilience and Sustainability Department. Next, she worked at the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank as the Food Donor Relations Manager and Director of Food Recovery. Today, she is Sustainability Specialist for a new urban planning and sustainability consulting firm in El Paso. She also is an independent contractor for an environmental nonprofit Eco El Paso and for a company in Sherman, doing translations from English to

French. She and her husband have a 1-year-old daughter and continue to live in El Paso.



**Mikayla Stocks** completed a Master of Public Affairs degree at Indiana University's O'Neil School in 2019. She returned to Texas and began work for the City of Austin as Grants Coordinator for the Public Health Department, overseeing contracts that specialize in homeless prevention, domestic violence, or intellectual and developmental disabilities services. Mikayla credits her Austin College professors with her success and says each line on her resume came from a direct connection made by one of her professors.

## 2017

**Preston Glasscock** has accepted a position to serve as Judicial Law Clerk at the



Northern District of Texas from 2020 to 2021. He has already

accepted a position to work as a Litigator for Norton Rose Fulbright in Dallas when the clerk position ends.

**Blair Creedle Reynolds** earned a master's degree in Medical Science from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in May 2019 and was named Outstanding Graduate Student in the program.

She has entered the Long School of Medicine at UT San



Antonio Health Science Center with plans to complete her M.D. and a

master's degree in Public Health.

**Rebecca Rogers** earned a master's degree in International Development from the London School of Economics in December 2018



and is working as an English teacher at a small English academy in South Korea.

She enjoys the job and looks forward to all that country has to offer.

**Sitara Weerakoon** earned her master's degree in Public



Health from UT Health Science Center School of Public Health in May

2019, and in June, she began a Ph.D. program in Epidemiology with a minor in Biostatistics. A graduate research assistant, she was inducted into Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health in 2019. 🐘



*Elena Aventa, daughter of Tony Aventa '90*

## Continuing Their Family Traditions

The Class of 2023 includes 50 students following family members into 'RooNation. Many have siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncles who attended Austin College recently or years ago. Space doesn't allow all of those students to be shown but pictured below are those students whose legacy connections are parents and/or grandparents (and showed up for the photo).

Two of the freshmen—**Grant Gilbert** of Sherman and **Jacob Meloni** of Schertz, Texas—each have nine 'Roo relatives before them, each including one parent, two or three grandparents, and an array of aunts and uncles—plus a sibling for Grant. As “most legacied,” they placed the Class of 2023 flag at Opening Convocation in August 2019.

See more legacy photos at [www.austincollege.edu/legacy-students-2019](http://www.austincollege.edu/legacy-students-2019).

PHOTOS BY HANNA PAINE '21



*Zoe Crane, daughter of Farrell Crane '84*



*Sophie Daniel, daughter of Lezlie Parsons Daniel '83 and Ladd Daniel '84*



*Brandon Evans, son of Lucy Foster Evans '87*



*Grant Gilbert, in 'Roo shirt, son of Dean Gilbert '89, and grandson of Dean Gilbert '71. Also pictured brother Clay Gilbert '19*



*Clara Harper, daughter of Cheri Vandivort Harper and Michael Harper, both '94, and granddaughter of Bettie Bass Vandivort '72 and Bill Vandivort '69*



*Lucas Herrmann, son of Chris Herrmann '89 and Stephanie Lucio-Herrmann '92*



*Maya Leisey, stepdaughter of Todd Deatherage '83*



*Joanna Leitch, daughter of Georgia Vincent '93*





**Lindy Luker**, granddaughter of Jim Jarratt '67



**Kennon Magers**, son of Bill Magers '85 and Angela Magers MAT '98. At far right is brother Zachary Magers '21.



**Jacob Meloni**, son of Paige Rodgers Meloni '91



**Cristian Olvera**, son of Mike Olvera '98



**Elijah Sisk**, son of Mary Pope Sisk '88 and Kevin Sisk '88



**Kate Willeford**, daughter of Keith Willeford '91

## HONORING OUR SPORTS LEGENDS



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER MANIET

The 2019 Legends honorees, pictured left to right with President Steven O'Day, are Deb Hunter, Jeff Robbins, Kaitlin Elledge, Jason Johnson, Kevin Krause, Marcus Schulz, Jason Burton, and Kaitlin Shores.

**2019 Athletic Hall of Honor inductees:** Kaitlin Elledge '11 (soccer) • Jason Johnson '93 (football) • Kevin Krause '92 (baseball) • Jeff Robbins '84 (football) • Kaitlin Listol Shores '08 (volleyball)

**Kedric Couch Alumni Coaches of the Year:** Jason Burton '07 (women's basketball) • Marcus Schulz '03 (football)

**Coach Joe Spencer Award for Meritorious Service and Lifetime Achievement in Coaching:** Debra Hunter

**SAVE THE DATE:** Legends, August 7-9, 2020

## 2000

**Kelly Hamilton** married Sarah Bruno in June 2018. **Vanessa Brown** and **Kari Bergman** were members of the wedding ceremony. After earning his master's degree from Washington University in 2002, Kelly cofounded and ran a magazine publishing business in St. Louis for 13 years. In 2017, he entered a Ph.D. program for industrial organizational psychology.

## 2004

**Dan Pucul** and **Lindy K. Olsen '03** were married in August 2016. They have taken some time to share the news through 'Roo Notes, and they were obviously pretty low key about the ceremony. Dan wrote that he "took an extra half hour for my lunch break that day. We had to go all the way to Whitesboro to find a Justice of the Peace that would do marriages." Just as married; none of the wedding stress. Now, Lindy is completing a master's degree in Counseling at University of North Texas. Dan, who earned a master's in Drama in 2009 at Texas Woman's University, is the Technical Coordinator for Ida Green Communication Center. They live in Sherman.

## 2007

**Kristen Austin** and **Matt Stewart '08** were married on April 20, 2018, in Kansas City, Missouri, their home at the time. Alumni in the wedding party included **Amanda Austin Comer '08**, **Molly Dougherty Bucy**, **Audrey Burnett Harris**, **Garrett Staples '06**, and **Tres Ellis '11**. **Kelly Yarbrough Frasier '09**, **Laura Westerlage '08**,

**Megan Dougherty Travis '10**, and **Shamyal Khan '08** also attended. Matt and Kristen chose to legally combine their last names to form a new last name, Austew, that both use. Kristen began a new position as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Bordentown, New Jersey, in February 2019, having left her post as Chaplain at Kansas City Hospice & Palliative Care, where she served from November 2013 through November 2018.

## 2009

**Nicolas Ayala** married Miriam Ayme Gueta on June 8, 2019, in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico. The two own Rancho Los Girasoles and live in Celina, Texas, with their son, Nicolas, various goats, and three dogs. They own and manage two wedding venues in Dallas: Fiesta Gardens Event Center and Hacienda Fiesta Gardens.

## 2011

**Gabriel Vasquez** and **Ashley Youvza** were married on April 27, 2019, in Wylie, Texas, with DJ Hardy '09 and Sean Simpson '12 in the wedding party. The new couple lives in Garland, Texas, with their daughters, Lilly and Emma.

## 2012

**Savannah Murphy** and **Alex Mannari '11** were married on November 3, 2019. 'Roo's in the bridal party were **Patrick Coleman**, **Scott Cottingham '10**, **Austin Light '11**, **Aziz Kobty '11**, **Victor Mollenhoff**, **Sahar Mehdi '11**, **Kersti Marusich**, **Erica Demies '13**, and **Kate Wofford**. The new couple lives in Fort Worth, Texas, where Savannah works for Stryker and Alex works for MDG Medical.

## 2013

**Caitlyn Graves** and **Kathryn "Kat" Meyer** were married on March 24, 2018, in Manor, Texas. Wedding attendants included **Lizzy Lincoln '14**, **James Taylor '14**, and **Thomas Clayton '12**. Caitlyn and Kat met at Austin College in 2014 when both worked for Duke TIP. Caitlin lives in Fort Worth, Texas, works at Tarrant County College District with professional and organizational development, and is in the dissertation phase of her doctorate in education. Kat began her first year at Case Western Reserve University Law School in Cleveland, Ohio, in fall 2019. Both had opportunities too good to pass up but say they are "old hands" at long-distance relationships and that life is busy and beautiful.

**Emily Olvera** and **Jack McCoy** were married June 15, 2019, at Knotting Hill Place in Little Elm, Texas. Emily's bridesmaids included **Victoria Briscoe O'Connor**,

**Hailey Wakefield**, and **Ashley Fitzpatrick**. Emily and Jack live in Allen, Texas, with their yellow lab, Sammy. Jack works with The Real McCoy's Realty, and Emily is a Tax Associate with Bland Garvey CPAs and Wealth Advisors.

## 2014

**Meghana Bellary** and **Vishal Maktal** were married June 14, 2019, in the backyard of her family home. Meghana described a "traditional arranged marriage turned to love" that began when their mothers (strangers), thinking their children would never marry, decided to "help." Meghana and Vishal met, found their dreams coming true, and soon decided to marry. **Shruti Hegde '13** and **Surya Ravi** were bridesmaids. **Khusa Singh** also attended. After the wedding and a Texas reception, the couple traveled to India for a reception for Vishal's family, with over 500 attending. Meghana is a teacher in Plano. Vishal is a Data Analyst.



Sarah Bruno and Kelly Hamilton '00





*Lindy K. Olsen '03 and Dan Pucul '04*



*Miriam Ayme Gueta and Nicolas Ayala '09*



*Alex Mannari '11 and Savannah Murphy '12*



*Kathryn "Kat" Meyer and Caitlyn Graves '13*



*Matt Stewart '08 and Kristen Austin '07*



*Ashley Youvza and Gabriel Vasquez '11*



*Emily Olvera '13 and Jack McCoy*



*Meghana Bellary '14 and Vishal Maktal*

## 2014 (continued)

**Abby Saizow** and **Alan Parrent** were married June 8, 2019, in Breckenridge, Colorado. Alumni in the wedding were Madeleine Millender, Austin Vaughan '13, and Shane Williams '13. Abby's boxer, 'Roo, was the flower dog for the ceremony. Abby and Alan have added another boxer to the family, "sister" Breck. The bride and groom met in the fall of their sophomore year and dated almost 7.5 years. That may have had something to do with Abby's education. In May 2019, she graduated from Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences. The new couple lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Abby is a veterinarian at Woodland West Animal Hospital, and Alan is Director of Game Operations for Tulsa Oilers Hockey.

Rebecca McDonald '18, Kylie Menocal '18, Tad Howard, Tanner Howard, and Shane Brooks '18. The couple lives in Dallas, Texas, with their adopted dog, Lilly. Tori is in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program at Chatham University and will graduate in July 2020. Shawn works as a Financial Advisor at AXA Advisors.

**Lacyn Hill** and **Robert Ward** were married August 11, 2018, in Glen Rose, Texas, in an outdoor ceremony. The wedding party included Lauren Rose '13, Savanna Romo '16, Shannon McKelvie, and Presleigh Watson. Lacyn works at Trinity Industries, Inc., and Robert recently graduated from Richland College where he studied video game design and development. The couple attends Frisco Bible Church, where they met and became friends in 2015.



Alan Parrent '14  
and Abby Saizow '14



Jeremy Halford '16  
and Madison Lee '17



Shawn Slowinski '17  
and Victoria Campbell '17



Robert Ward  
and Lacyn Hill '17



Zoe Garner '18  
and Cary Register '17

## 2017

**Madison Lee** and **Jeremy Halford** '16 were married April 26, 2019, at Mitas Hill Vineyard in McKinney, Texas. They met when Madison was a freshman at Austin College in 2013, playing ping pong in the Pouch Club. Jeremy proposed just outside the Pouch Club in December 2017. The wedding party included Brooks Ward '16 and Thomas Oberg. Madison works for a well-known tax, auditing, and consulting firm in Dallas, and Jeremy works in the Accounting Office of UT Dallas. The couple lives in Richardson, Texas.

**Victoria Campbell** and **Shawn Slowinski** were married May 24, 2019, in Leonard, Texas. The wedding party included Presleigh Watson, Shannon McKelvie,

## 2018

**Zoe Garner** and **Cary Register** '17 were married July 20, 2019, at Marty Leonard Chapel in Fort Worth, Texas. Austin College Chaplain Dr. John Williams '84 officiated. Several 'Roo's attended, and the wedding party included Rebecca Franklin, Sydney Jackson '19, Jackson Farnsworth '17, Ben Lehrman '17, Brett Garner '22, and Jake Davis '20.



## 2001

**Mike Johnston MAT '02** and his wife, Erin, welcomed their daughter, Moa Summer Johnston, on May 29, 2019.

**Melissa Johnston McKenzie '04** is the new addition's aunt.

## 2006

**Dennis Kelly Jr. and Emily Webb Kelly '10/MAT '11** are the parents of Claire Sawyer Kelly, born August 18, 2019. Big brother John Dennis, born in January 2018, is very proud of his little sister, who has lots of 'Roo support with her grandfather, two aunts, and an uncle who are Austin College alumni. Dennis received his master's degree in Education from Xavier University in May 2019.

## 2007

**Catherine "Cat" Moran Ayeni** and her husband, Ohiolei, welcomed their son, Jonathan Clinton Ayodele Ayeni, on July 25, 2019.

## 2008

**Nathan Lockaby and Kaley Roberts Lockaby '09** welcomed their daughter and future 'Roo, Caroline Love Lockaby, on March 18, 2019.

## 2009

**Nicolas Ayala** and his wife, Miriam, welcomed their son, Nicolas Ayala, on December 21, 2018.

## 2011

**Spenser Cruikshank Garrison** and **Zac Garrison** are the parents of a daughter, Emery Jaye-Carter Garrison, born on May 29, 2019. The family lives in Austin, Texas,

where Spenser works for the State of Texas Health and Human Services, and Zac works for Southern Glazers Distributors.

**Montine Garcia Miller** and her husband, Jarrod, welcomed their daughter, Olivia Miller, on November 5, 2018. Montine is a special education teacher in Salisbury, Maryland, and Jarrod is on the faculty at the University of Delaware.

## 2012

**Blake Doughty and Katie Hendrickson Doughty** introduce Harper Jean Doughty, born on September 18, 2019. Blake is Head Boys Basketball Coach/Defensive Coordinator and Katie is Associate Principal of Instruction and Guidance, both at Grapeland High School. Big brother Grayson, born July 2018, welcomed home his little sister.

**Ben Elbertson and Jill Murphy Elbertson '13** welcomed their son, Owen Ignatius Elbertson, on October 5, 2018, in Lubbock, Texas. The family has moved to Little Rock, Arkansas. See Class of 2013 notes.

## 2013

**Jason Henry MAT '14 and Heather Farquhar Henry** welcomed their son, Owen Daniel Henry, home in Richardson, Texas, on March 20, 2019. Both teach fifth grade—Jason in Frisco ISD and Heather in Mesquite ISD.



Moa Summer  
(Johnston '01)



Emery Jaye-Carter  
(Garrison '11)



Claire Sawyer  
(Kelly '06)



Olivia  
(Miller '11)



Jonathan Clinton Ayodele  
(Ayeni '07)



Harper Jean  
(Doughty '12)



Caroline Love  
(Lockaby '08)



Owen Ignatius  
(Elbertson '12)



Nicolas  
(Ayala '09)



Owen Daniel  
(Henry '13)

## 2019 ALUMNI AND VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Honoring talented alumni is a highlight of Homecoming, from the career and community success of the Distinguished Alumni and First Decade Awardee to the continued commitment to Austin College of the Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award and the Cindy Bean Service-to-Alumni Award honorees.

### Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



**Amanda Clausen Hammel '95** is Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Memorial Hermann Health System. A nationally recognized leader for population health technology, she has guided Memorial Hermann to become a national leader of Accountable Care Organizations for the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services since joining the system in 2007. Amanda is a member of the steering committee for the nonprofit IGNITE, which engages executive-level women to generate innovative solutions in healthcare. She and her husband, Brad, are active members of Christ Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Houston, where Amanda serves in the choir and in women's ministry.



**Jeffrey Levin '79, M.D.**, is Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler. Much honored for his work, Dr. Levin has received the Marcus Key Award from the Texas College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, The University of Texas System Regents Outstanding Teaching Award, and the Texas College Legacy Award, among others. A Professor in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences, he has helped develop JanTerm and Gateways opportunities for Austin College students at UTHSC, particularly in Public Health and Biotechnology. Jeffrey and his wife, **Virginia Harleston '79**, live in Tyler.



**Don Newsom '64** enjoyed a celebrated career as an educator, coach, athletic director, and administrator before his retirement. He taught and coached football, baseball, and track in several Texas school districts and coached at Austin College and McMurry College. Don received many NAIA coaching awards, and Austin College recognized him with induction to the Athletic Hall of Honor in 1983 and the 2015 Joe Spencer Award for Lifetime Achievement and Meritorious Service in Coaching. He is a former Citizen of the Year in Celina, where he previously served as Chamber of Commerce president. He and his wife, **Carol (Campbell) '62**, a 1997 Distinguished Alumna, live in McKinney, Texas.

### First Decade Award



**Madison Messinger '14** graduated from Austin College with majors in International Relations and Chinese Studies. An alternate for the prestigious Boren Scholarship, she studied in China with support from a Gilman Scholarship. She began nonprofit work with Literacy AmeriCorps before joining North Texas Food Bank in Dallas, Texas. Today, she is that agency's Child Programs Administrator, overseeing programs that serve approximately 13,000 children. She designs innovative program models, engages local hunger coalitions, and speaks on behalf of the food bank to community and corporate groups. She has received several professional recognitions for her work.

### Heywood C. Clemons Volunteer Service Award



**Blake Utter '07** graduated from Austin College with a degree in Business Administration. He is the owner and General Manager of Blake Utter Ford in

Denison, Texas. Blake is known by many as the voice of Kangaroo football, providing play-by-play commentary when Austin College plays at home in Apple Stadium throughout the fall. An active member of the local community, Blake serves on the boards of directors of Boys and Girls Club of Denison and The Rehabilitation Center in Sherman, among other activities.

### Cindy Bean Service-to-Alumni Award



**Michael W. Deen** works to connect with Austin College students throughout their education, and that commitment helps him to better serve them once they

move into the next step of life as alumni. He continues to welcome and serve alumni in every visit to campus and beyond, seeking to maintain alumni connections to the College community. He began work at Austin College in 2005 and has served as Associate Director of Student Life, Director of Student Life, and now, Dean of Students. He has further served the College on the President's Inclusion and Diversity Task Force.



## CRIMSON & GOLD ... AND PURPLE



Homecoming & Family Weekend 2019 was one of the largest gatherings of alumni on campus in many years. The campus was a sea of crimson and gold ... and purple. Much of the turnout was for the Centennial Celebration of Kappa Gamma Chi, Austin College's oldest continuing organization of women. The group's signature colors are purple and white.

In fall 1918, when the first women were officially admitted to Austin College, most organizations on campus were not enthusiastic about allowing the women to join. Unfazed, the women decided to create their own organization, and Kappa Gamma Chi Literary Society was founded. The organization offered social opportunities along with literary discussion. In 1940, the group reshaped into a social sorority and has been active on campus in that fashion ever since.

In 1994, the Kappas marked the 75th anniversary of their founding by creation of the Kappa Gamma Chi Alumni Scholarship, which would provide study abroad assistance to Austin College women.

As the 100th year neared, 120 Kappas, spanning 40 years, kicked off the Centennial Celebration with a four-day Carnival Cruise to Cozumel. It was deemed "epic."

To officially commemorate the 100th anniversary of the group's founding, Kappa alumni determined to raise an additional \$100,000 to increase the Alumni Scholarship endowment. **Vee Smith Volpe '90**, **Jenny King '92**, and **Holly Mace Massingill '94** led the charge, raising \$101,000 *in six weeks*—adding the final \$20,000 to the total during the Kappa Centennial Reception at Homecoming to add to the excitement!

Organizing a Centennial Celebration is no small feat, and Jenny King took on much of the load. She would tell you it was because living in Dallas made it easier for her than others. It was a work of love, a *lot* of work. In addition to taking care of lots of logistics, she created an exhibit that includes the history of the organization, as well as many testimonials, memories, and memorabilia. The laughter, stories, and bonds of sisterhood went beyond class years and radiated from alumni to current students. Kappas and non-Kappas enjoyed the celebration.

Here's to the next 100 years of Kappa Gamma Chi!



## ALUMNI

1941 Mrs. Edith "Deedy" Hawkins Bennett . . . July 13, 2019  
 1941 Drucilla Dickerson DeArmond. . . . . April 16, 2019  
 1941 Thomas Murphy. . . . . August 1, 2019  
 1942 Kitty Lus Druck . . . . . December 1, 2018  
 1943 Bette Rector. . . . . October 3, 2018  
 1947 D. Glynn Smith. . . . . November 29, 2018  
 1948 Robert Hale . . . . . August 28, 2019  
 1948 Carl Hefton. . . . . December 6, 2018  
 1948 Charles Mitchell. . . . . January 1, 2019  
 1948 Kathryn Mack Phipps . . . . . August 5, 2019  
 1949 Samuel Barnes. . . . . March 22, 2019  
 1949 John Edward Carter . . . . . October 9, 2019  
 1949 Betty Dean Morgan . . . . . October 12, 2019  
 1949 Claude Perry Jr. . . . . November 21, 2019  
 1950 Virginia Foshee Duke . . . . . February 16, 2019  
 1951 Marion Pollard Chandler. . . . . October 19, 2019  
 1951 Bill Farrow . . . . . February 20, 2019  
 1951 Betty Lynn Laden O'Neal . . . . . October 18, 2019  
 1952 Billy Spann . . . . . April 22, 2019  
 1952 Clem Fain Sylestine. . . . . May 21, 2019  
 1953 Jean Harper Crain . . . . . August 3, 2019  
 1953 Marie Davis. . . . . August 3, 2019  
 1953 James R. Sheppard Jr. . . . . September 10, 2019  
 1953 Dorothy Tucker Winfield . . . . . November 30, 2019  
 1954 Edward Anthony Joseph . . . . . March 31, 2019  
 1957 Carol Luce Howell . . . . . November 26, 2019  
 1957 Edward C. Kirby. . . . . December 22, 2017  
 1957 James E. Owens . . . . . July 4, 2019  
 1958 Paul Branum. . . . . January 4, 2019  
 1958 Raymond Dupuy . . . . . February 23, 2019  
 1958 Weldon Rackley. . . . . June 2, 2017  
 1958 Dennis Redburn. . . . . March 12, 2019  
 1958 Patricia J. Turner . . . . . November 20, 2018  
 1959 John Duncan . . . . . February 5, 2019  
 1959 George Huser . . . . . August 13, 2019  
 1959 Nelma Laverne Hyde . . . . . September 29, 2019  
 1959 Nancy Dennis Wilbourn . . . . . January 7, 2019  
 1961 Walter Ague. . . . . January 7, 2019

1961 Patricia McClurg . . . . . August 25, 2019  
 1961 Clarence Randolph "Randy" Russell Jr. . . May 21, 2019  
 1962 Kay Baker . . . . . October 17, 2018  
 1962 Norman Dickey . . . . . April 7, 2019  
 1963 Lynne Hartman Black . . . . . January 4, 2019  
 1963 Peter L. Kleinjan. . . . . November 4, 2018  
 1964 Don Read . . . . . March 21, 2019  
 1965 Wayne McClure . . . . . January 10, 2019  
 1965 Judith Castleberry Miller . . . . . March 29, 2019  
 1965 Nancy Beinke Schwartz . . . . . July 11, 2019  
 1966 Joseph Cutlip . . . . . February 10, 2019  
 1966 Susan Freiberg Urbach. . . . . August 30, 2019  
 1967 Richard Anton "Tony" Levacy . . . . . March 6, 2019  
 1967 Patsy Merrill . . . . . November 15, 2018  
 1967 Deane Sadler . . . . . May 9, 2019  
 1968 David Lander . . . . . September 28, 2019  
 1969 Jean Menefee. . . . . February 8, 2019  
 1970 Sam P. Hooper Jr. . . . . November 12, 2019  
 1971 Mark Beardsley . . . . . November 30, 2019  
 1971 Lydia Rodrigues Frias . . . . . January 25, 2019  
 1972 Isabel Garza Jimenez . . . . . November 19, 2019  
 1973 Michael Parker . . . . . May 21, 2019  
 1973 Mary J. Swirczynski. . . . . January 7, 2019  
 1974 Martha Katharine Brittain . . . . . November 24, 2019  
 1974 Foy Crookham . . . . . May 18, 2019  
 1974 Jesse R. "Ray" Thomas. . . . . January 12, 2019  
 1975 Roger "Kirk" Keller . . . . . November 2, 2019  
 1975 Mary Jane Willis Briscoe . . . . . October 1, 2019  
 1976 Matthew Ralph McCord . . . . . October 26, 2019  
 1977 Johnny Ellis . . . . . December 25, 2018  
 1978 Preston Thompson . . . . . April 11, 2019  
 1980 Connie Boone Thomas. . . . . April 1, 2019  
 1982 Jan Pharis Lindsey . . . . . January 27, 2019  
 2001 J.L. Chapman Jr. . . . . July 26, 2019  
 2003 Lauren Cook. . . . . March 11, 2019  
 2004 Sarah Francis . . . . . February 6, 2019  
 2008 Rachel Escamilla . . . . . March 11, 2019  
 2010 Layne Rylander . . . . . September 29, 2019

## Friends We Will Miss

**Mary Carlson**, who served as Secretary and Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Social Sciences for more than 25 years, died January 15, 2019.

**Jan Bacon**, who worked as Secretary in Abell Library, Communication Arts, and Continuing Education during her 11 years with the College, died August 19, 2019.

**Pete Newell**, who worked as HVAC Technician from 1982 until his retirement in 1994, died August 22, 2019.

**H. Ross Perot**, who received an Austin College Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree in 1989, died July 9, 2019.



## Austin College Faculty

The Austin College community lost three dedicated emeriti faculty last year who had served Austin College and their students well over several decades. Space does not allow the listing here of their many accomplishments and achievements, but their students and colleagues hold the former educators in high esteem in their minds and hearts. Find their full obituaries on the Austin College website.

## Hugh Barnard Garnett Jr.



Professor Emeritus of Economics **Hugh Garnett** died October 14, 2019. He joined the Austin College faculty in 1981, teaching until his retirement in 2003. He considered Austin College a perfect fit because of the emphasis on educating future citizens. "The highpoint of my career has been the



engaged citizenship and professional accomplishments of so many of the students I have been privileged to teach,” he once said. In addition to his expert and insightful guidance in economics, Garnett was passionate about botany, conservation, photography, and birding. He gifted a 7-acre, native tallgrass prairie, later named Garnett Prairie, to the College as an outdoor teaching and research laboratory for the Sciences.

## Dan Schores



**Dr. Daniel Mortimer Schores**, Associate Professor Emeritus of Sociology, died August 19, 2019. He taught Sociology and Anthropology at the College from 1969 until his retirement in 1994. He described himself as a generalist with a wide range of interests that he felt fit well with the liberal arts experience. During his tenure, Austin College had a Continuing Education Program, and he served as director for many years. Approximately 1,500 community residents attended the 70-80 courses offered each year. He also was director of the College's Elderhostel program, which brought senior citizens to campus from around the country. He continued to work with the program long after his retirement.

## Paul Thomas



**Dr. Paul Leslie Thomas**, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, died September 16, 2019. He joined the College faculty in fall 1963 and throughout his teaching tenure also served as Director of World Affairs and Field Studies, Director of Institutional Research, Associate Registrar, and Registrar. He retired from his Registrar role in 1992. Beginning in 1992, he served as Assistant Dean of the Faculty and Professor of Psychology, retiring from the College in June 1996.



## Austin College Board of Trustees

The dedication and support of these senior members of the College's Board of Trustees had tremendous impact upon the College in recent decades. These trustees, who happen to be devoted Presbyterian Church leaders also, have made gifts that have been monumental in the life of the College. Find full obituaries on the College website.

## Robert J. Wright



**Robert J. Wright**, longtime friend and former chair of the College's Board of Trustees, died January 17, 2019. He joined the Austin College Board in 1983, served as chair from 1997 to 2007, and continued on the senior board until his death.

A respected Dallas business leader and philanthropist, Robert Wright's name is perhaps one of the

most recognized at Austin College with the Robert J. and Mary Wright Campus Center a focus of daily life. Bob and his wife, Mary, supported numerous other programs and initiatives of the College. They were particularly pleased to create a number of scholarships and to interact with the recipients. Wright was honored on several occasions by Austin College, his fellow trustees, and its students, receiving the College's Toddie Lee Wynne Award for Distinguished Service in 1990 and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters in 2006. Upon his retirement as board chair, Student Assembly passed a resolution to name the drive leading to Wright Campus Center as "Robert J. Wright Circle."

## David Fornoff



Senior trustee **David A. Fornoff**, died April 18, 2019. The Waco business leader and philanthropist was an active member of the College's Board of Trustees from 1986 to 1993 and remained a senior trustee until his death. In addition to offering his leadership and guidance to the board, Fornoff and his wife, Dorothy, supported various board projects, particularly construction of Wright Campus Center, as well as IDEA Center construction.

## Carolyn Harte



Senior trustee **Carolyn Harte** of San Antonio, Texas, died October 8, 2019. She joined the board in 1986 and remained on the senior board until her death. In addition to providing influence and input, her involvement was one of great philanthropy. She and her husband, Houston Harte, who preceded her in death, were generous benefactors of the College. Among other gifts, they endowed the Houston and Carolyn Harte Middle Income Assistance Endowed Scholarships, specifically to assist students ineligible for federal assistance in meeting the cost of private higher education. Mrs. Harte also contributed to several other campus initiatives.

## Jesse Raymond Thomas III, M.D.



Senior trustee **Jesse R. "Ray" Thomas** of Carrollton, Texas, died January 12, 2019. Ray served on the Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2013 and remained an active senior trustee until his death. He served as chair of the Academic Affairs Committee for much of his active service and was an integral member of both the Trustee Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee. The esteemed physician and owner of dermatology clinics in Sherman and Plano was a 1974 graduate of the College. He and his wife, Elizabeth (Black) Thomas '73, made several significant scholarship gifts to the College and supported numerous other projects, including construction of Wright Campus Center.



# Commitment That Runs Deep

By **Holly Mace Massingill '94**

PLEDGE CLASS #72: At Homecoming 2019, left to right, are Shelley Hallman Shook, Alison Kiernat Hughes, Holly Mace Massingill, Jeanna Montgomery Brooks, Kim Jacoby Kehoe, Jennifer Kyle Hernandez, and Stella Lucio Mulhollan, all '94.



I often tell students who are starting their college search, “If you want to expand your horizons, go to a small school.”

I have seen time and again that at a large institution, a young person can usually surround themselves with like-minded people. At a small school, that isn't always the case.

When I had the privilege of returning to campus this fall to celebrate the Centennial



Celebration of my sorority, Kappa Gamma Chi, I realized that my mantra is truer than ever. At Homecoming, over 200 Kappas gathered in Sherman to celebrate 100 years of sisterhood. And, while Kappas have always been known to

enjoy a good party, it was far more meaningful than that.

As I reflected on the weekend, I had to ask myself, “Why?” Why would all these women from all age ranges come from all over the country to attend Homecoming for our local sorority?

The answer is because the commitment to Kappa runs deep for us. Not just because of our rich history (our founding member, Ms. Lola Belle Perkins, was a revolutionary who came to campus with the first group of women ever allowed admission) but because our relationships with each other run deep.

Just like our sorority, just like our classes, just like our town—“smallness” is what makes Austin

College special. As 'Roos, our relationships with each other are not due to sameness. They are not a result of like-minded individuals finding one another at the age of 18. I argue that our strength is in large part because we are different.

Of my six pledge sisters who attended Homecoming 2019 and myself, our occupations include veterinarian, librarian, attorney, coach, nurse, realtor, and community outreach coordinator. We are a diverse group, and I wonder if we would have found each other at a large school or in a big sorority. I wonder if we would have cared enough to attend our Homecoming 25 years later.

I have come to appreciate the smallness of the city where Austin College resides as part of our uniqueness. Sherman isn't an obstacle. It's part of the winning combination. While out on the town during Homecoming, I saw so many familiar faces. In a big city, I simply would not have run into 100 of my friends at a local restaurant. I would assume this experience is true in the daily lives of our current students as well.

Attending a small school in a small town and being a member of a small sorority resulted in a much bigger life. For that, I am eternally grateful. ■

*Holly lives in Rollingwood, Texas, with her husband, Gavin, and their son, Mace. A broker associate with Keller Williams Realty in Austin, she also is the sole proprietor of Lone Star Legacies. Holly is a member of Austin College's Board of Trustees.*



# Today, cheering the 'Roos. Tomorrow, the world.



PHOTO BY MICHAELS PHOTOGRAPHY

Members of the inaugural 'Roo Pep Band are forging a new path—not only in music but also for life. Their journey is possible because we are committed to providing access to quality liberal arts education for talented and deserving students. With over 30% of our incoming freshmen identified as “first-generation,” that challenge is greater than ever.

POWER Austin College is helping meet the need. Scholarships are one of the POWER campaign's highest priorities, and gifts for endowed or immediate-use funds open the door to a wider world. We are grateful for the support of donors and friends to transform young people. Every gift matters—make yours today!

[www.austincollege.edu/giving](http://www.austincollege.edu/giving)

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